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PETROV: WEST PROCRASTINATING IN MBFR DESPITE BLOC CONCESSIONS

LD261101 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Mar 79 p 4 LD

[A. Petrov article: "Vienna: Who Needs Delaying Tactics?"]

[Text] The 17th round of the talks on the mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe is now in progress. What is there that is new at the Hofburg, where the sessions are taking place? Has a ray of light broken through on the military detente horizon and has a basis for agreement begun to appear?--these are logical questions.

There is no disputing that questions of great complexity figure on the agenda in Vienna and that the comprehensive discussion of these takes time. But the 5 and 1/2 years that the talks have been going on is, after all, quite a long time. Over these years soldiers of two and even three age groups have served their terms and then entered the reserve. Generals at the NATO headquarters have had time to grow disillusioned with their old doctrines and are now trying new ones for size, basing them on new and even more destructive weapons. It might seem that the prospect of transition to a more dangerous stage of the arms race must have prompted an active and energetic quest for paths toward agreement. By the logic of things, the socialist states' efforts to draw the sides' positions closer together should have met with a response from the other side--the Western states. And if this has not happened it is not so much because of objective difficulties as because of certain aims in the NATO members' policy. Hence it emerges that the socialist countries' initiatives and proposals aimed at settling specific issues, at agreeing on the basic parameters and framework of an agreement and at insuring a climate of trust which would promote the success of the Vienna talks, are either rejected or essentially go unanswered for months or even years.

Let us consider the socialist countries' proposals of 8 June 1978.

Here are their main proposals in brief. The socialist countries expressed readiness to establish--by two stages of reduction--equal overall numerical strengths of armed forces for the NATO and Warsaw Pact countries of 900,000 men each, including 700,000 each for the ground forces. They agreed that only the ground troops would be reduced, while maximum levels were set for the air force personnel. Thus, not only was the desire for "collective ceilings," which had been elevated by the West to the level of a principle, satisfied, but preconditions were created also for ending the protracted discussion of the numerical strength of the sides' armed forces, insofar as limits on them were determined.

Later the Soviet Union agreed to the reduction of its troops at the first stage by formations (divisions) and proposed that the United States withdraw its troops from central Europe in brigades, with the idea in mind, in particular, that this procedure for reductions is most easily verified. It was envisaged that at this same first stage the USSR and the United States would reduce their troops by an equal percentage, that is, in proportion to their numerical strength in the "reduction zone."

Finally, the Soviet Union and the socialist countries displayed a readiness to withdraw from central Europe a considerable quantity of military equipment too, including 1,000 tanks, provided that the West reduce by a corresponding number of units NATO's tactical nuclear facilities and delivery systems. [paragraph continues]

Consequently, NATO's so-called "third alternative" (the reduction of arms on the pattern of Eastern tanks for Western tactical nuclear facilities), which the Western countries at Vienna considered one of the basic conditions for the success of the talks, was adopted.

As many politicians and political experts in the West admit, the socialist countries' proposals took into account their negotiating partners' viewpoint to an even greater degree than they expected or thought possible. U.S. President J. Carter, for example, assessed them as a "concrete step in the required direction." FRG Chancellor W. Schmidt described the proposals as "a significant basis for achieving the goal of the Vienna talks."

But, as the subsequent development of events has shown, everything looked different in actual practice. After a certain period of confusion the West began to display what was almost resentment at the socialist countries' proposals insofar as they forced NATO to reveal its real intentions: either to reach agreement or to assume complete responsibility for the lack of progress of Vienna. And the NATO leadership is not prepared to reach agreement on the basis of the principles of equality and identical security. To judge from everything, it is fixated on the programs for the development of the arms race in Europe adopted at last year's NATO Council sessions.

This, and this alone, can explain the fact that the socialist countries' 8 June proposals and other initiatives have not so far produced any constructive reaction from the West. The NATOites' response to the appeal for progress on military detente by the participants in the November 1978 Moscow Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee conference was a decision to build up arms and to secure a change in their own favor in the overall parity which has taken shape in central Europe. The West again rejected the idea of freezing the levels of the sides' armed forces while the Vienna talks were going on, and this was rejected despite the fact that the socialist countries' proposal had been reworded to take into account the principle of "collective ceilings."

As Comrade L.I. Brezhnev observed, the Vienna talks "have become bogged down in disputes over methods of counting up the sides' armed forces personnel--right down to the last army cook or medical orderly." But while these disputes go on, the NATO staffs are persistently dragging record military budgets through cabinets and parliaments, preparing the ground (in the direct and also the figurative sense) for emplacement of new weapons systems, including qualitatively new systems, in Western Europe, and building up the numerical strength of the U.S. Armed Forces, stationed primarily in the FRG. There really is no longer any interest in a freeze here!

It is appropriate to recall how the Pentagon and the CIA in the fifties deliberately overestimated the number of Soviet bombers by a factor of three and in the sixties, as the Americans themselves subsequently admitted, deliberately overstated their estimate of our number of missiles by a factor of 4.5. The misinformation concocted at that time by the U.S. specialists ultimately cost not just the United States but the entire world tens and even hundreds of billions of dollars. And no one has been called to account for the "error." Who knows if it will not be "regretfully" admitted in the future that in the seventies too, the NATO generals "erroneously" overstated the numerical strength of the Warsaw Pact troops.

The NATO leaders are trying to convince the Western public that the blame for the tortoise pace of work in Vienna rests with the socialist countries. However, different stories are being given to their partners at the negotiations themselves.

Some are alluding to the stance adopted by the Americans, who have supposedly put up a red light until the SALT-II agreement is signed. Others are putting the blame on Bonn, whose representatives are playing with numbers with a view to gaining equal rights for the Bundeswehr in NATO and in the West European alliance. The fact that the U.S. and FRG delegations are occupying the toughest stances at Vienna is no secret. And the West's so-called "big press" puts its own interpretation on this. The delaying tactics in Vienna can be attributed no longer to the timing of the signing of SALT-II but... to the prospects of SALT-II; people in Bonn are talking about the need to "neutralize the East's preponderance in the area of 'gray-zone weapons,'" that is, medium-range missiles. How will this be neutralized? By modernizing a "Eurostrategic" potential which, when translated, means that weapons deployed in the FRG must be capable of hitting targets in the Soviet Union.

Has this anything to do with the reduction of the level of confrontation in central Europe, for the sake of which the Vienna talks were, strictly speaking, started?

No, it has not. The tactics of the Western delegations at the Hofburg are increasingly obviously being adapted to the NATO bloc's long-term military planning, which is designed to damage the military security of the other side--the Warsaw Pact countries. After all, simultaneously the numerical strength of U.S. troops in the FRG is being increased and has increased in the last 2 years by more than 34,000 men. NATO is conducting maneuvers almost continuously, now in one state and now in another, and these maneuvers simulate as closely as possible the real requirements of a war against a "potential adversary." A total of hundreds of thousands of soldiers are participating in these maneuvers. The transfer of large U.S. formations from across the ocean and their deployment in Europe in record time is being practiced.

The public of Western Europe is being conditioned psychologically in favor of the deployment of medium-range missiles in the FRG, Italy and a number of other bloc countries. This question has already been discussed twice at enlarged sessions of the FRG Cabinet and debated in the Bundestag. Despite the outwardly sharp tone of the parliamentary skirmish between the coalition and the opposition, the discussion, as the German expression has it, was like "fencing in front of a mirror." The Christian Democratic Union-Christian Social Union calls for immediate consent to the deployment of the missiles which the Pentagon is demanding while the government, fearing an adverse reaction in neighboring European countries and taking into account the voices of protest against this within the FRG itself, would like this to be based in advance on appropriate NATO decisions while this plan is maturing in technological terms. But the crux of the matter remains unchanged. It is no accident that the influential FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE wrote about the "patent rapprochement of positions between the government coalition parties and the opposition parties on these questions." "...this period ought to be used," the newspaper continued, "for the adoption of measures for armament against the eventuality that an acceptable agreement with the Soviet Union is not achieved, and in case a further increase in inequality comes about, primarily in the sphere of medium-range missiles."

What emerges is: "Disarmament through...armament," the shaking by all methods of the overall military equilibrium which has taken shape in Europe.

As L.I. Brezhnev observed, "the implementation of these plans, as of the U.S. military's schemes regarding neutron weapons, would lead only to a new increase of tension in Europe, to a new surge of the arms race, and to an even sharper increase in the danger to the FRG itself."

When the progress of the Vienna talks and of the discussions in the NATO states on disarmament (it would be more correct to say "on armament") is compared, the conclusion is suggested that the West, internally, is not prepared for constructive steps in the sphere of military detente. And the fruitless disputes at the Hofburg about the numerical strength of the sides' armed forces is merely a tactic of the Western powers, an attempt to avoid reaching an understanding.

In his speech to voters L.I. Brezhnev advanced an extensive program of action in the interests of international peace and security. The Soviet Union has confirmed its readiness to include in the disarmament negotiations all components of the sides' combat potentials without exception. "This also applies," said L.I. Brezhnev, "to medium-range weapons in Europe, taking into account, of course, too, the existence there of U.S. military bases. Our common position with the fraternal socialist states on this score was recently refelcted once again in the Warsaw Pact countries' Moscow declaration.

Insofar as real results have not yet been achieved at the Vienna talks on the reduction of troops and armaments, the measures for strengthening mutual trust in Europe are assuming a special significance. A whole series of possible steps were cited in L.I. Brezhnev's speech, designed to promote the reduction of military tension and suspicion. The proposals for states to renounce first use of both nuclear and conventional weapons, and concerning notification about naval maneuvers and the redeployment of large army formations, met with a great response abroad.

The U.S., FRG and other NATO governments have announced that they are carefully studying the new Soviet initiatives. Let us hope that the careful study will suggest the need for constructive action.

In one way or another the Vienna ball is in the West's court. The delaying tactics chosen by NATO contravene the very idea of the talks, which for the first time in history revealed the possibility of the mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe on the international legal basis of a treaty.

HEADS OF SALT DELEGATIONS HOLD MEETING 23 MAR

LD231148 Moscow TASS in English 1131 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Geneva, March 23, TASS--The heads of the delegations of the USSR and USA at the Soviet-U.S. talks on limiting strategic offensive arms had a meeting here today.

CSSR DELEGATE'S REMARKS AT GENEVA DISARMAMENT MEETING CITED

LD231316 Moscow TASS in English 1231 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Geneva, March 23, TASS--The problem of ending the arms race is of an urgent nature, Miroslav Rujek, representative of Czechoslovakia, said at a regular plenary meeting of the Disarmament Committee. Czechoslovakia attaches the greatest of importance to advance along the road of lessening the danger of nuclear war. That is exactly why its delegation became a coauthor of the proposal made by a group of socialist countries concerning talks on ending the production of all types of nuclear weapons and the gradual reduction of their stockpiles up to and including their total liquidation. The proposal, he stressed, should be studied in the first turn.

WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE' PROGRAM

LD251704 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD

["International Observers Roundtable" program presented by Yevgeniy Kachanov, all-union radio commentator, with TASS observer Oleg Alekseyevich Shirokov and IZVESTIYA observer Nikolay Petrovich Khokhlov]

World Support for SRV

[Text] [Kachanov] Good morning, comrades. Reports continue to come in from abroad telling of the growing movement of solidarity with heroic Vietnam, of the condemnation of the aggressive policy of the Beijing leadership which rode roughshod over the principles of the UN Charter and the generally recognized standards of relations between states.

The failure of the Chinese aggression, says the WFTU statement for example, is a defeat for international reaction and imperialism, and is a victory for all forces fighting for peace and the security of peoples. The Paris-based magazine AFRIQUE-ASIE writes that public opinion in developing countries has firmly condemned the Chinese aggression against Vietnam and demanded the immediate cessation of the new adventure undertaken by Beijing's leaders. The Chinese leadership's course, the article points out, is convincing evidence that Beijing has become the executor of the policy of the imperialist states.

Here before me is a dispatch from Budapest: The Chinese aggression against Socialist Vietnam, writes the paper NEPSZABADSAG, has forced progressive mankind to ponder the question: What do the Beijing leaders want to turn China into? The aim of China's policy, the paper remarks, is to unite itself with the forces of imperialism in the struggle against the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community. Recently attention has been drawn to the fact of the military rapprochement between China and the imperialist states. It is very important that in connection with China's aggression against Vietnam the majority of fraternal parties have arrived at a single viewpoint; they have not only firmly condemned the invaders, but also stressed that any support for the Beijing leadership's course or even disguising its true face can cause serious damage, as it panders to the Chinese leaders in their urge to proceed on their course which is fraught with danger, not only for China but also for the whole world.

It is true that Chinese troops are still on Vietnamese territory, occupying a whole number of settlements. The Chinese soldiers are digging trenches and erecting military installations. They are doing this with the obvious intention of consolidating themselves in a number of strategically important areas on Vietnamese territory. In point of fact the Chinese side is changing the line of the historically constituted border and is ranting about talks in order to legitimize the occupation of many areas of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam, says the statement published by Hanoi, firmly rejects the slanderous accusations of the ruling circles of China, and demands that the Chinese authorities immediately, fully and unconditionally withdraw all their troops behind the line of the historically constituted border which both sides agreed to respect. Only when this happens can Vietnamese-Chinese talks at deputy foreign minister level begin on 29 March in Hanoi.

Giscard's Forthcoming Visit

I would like to draw attention to one important international event which awaits us in the coming days; I have in mind the visit to our country by the president of France, Valery Giscard d'Estaing. I will ask TASS observer Oleg Alekseyevich Shirokov, who worked in France for a long time, to talk about this in detail.

I will ask TASS observer Oleg Alekseyevich Shirokov, who worked in France for a long time, to talk about this in detail.

[Shirokov] Now on the eve of the visit to the Soviet Union of Valery Giscard d'Estaing, president of France, and the Soviet-French summit talks observers are attentively studying the condition of relations between our countries again and again, and unanimously arrive at the conclusion that they are best characterized by the very broad concept of cooperation. It is being stressed in this context that cooperation between the Soviet Union and France grows stronger, deeper, takes on an ever broader scope from year to year, from 5-year plan to 5-year plan. This is the second decade in which both countries are pursuing identical or parallel courses intended to attenuate international tension, to clear the political climate in Europe and the whole world. Everyone knows how important a role was played by the mutual understanding and cooperation of our countries in preparing the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. In this connection observers draw attention to the fact that with all the differences between the policies of the USSR and France arising from their contrasting social structures and ideologies, the national interests of the peoples of both countries coincide in many ways, as historical experience shows. French-Soviet relations are an example of cooperation for all European states; this is convincingly shown by the experience of the last 20 years. As the Paris-based magazine COURIER DE POLITIQUE ETRANGERE--that is, FOREIGN POLICY DIARY--writes: The leaders of France and the Soviet Union--this magazine stresses--have been jointly discussing the biggest European and international problems in a completely frank atmosphere since the signing of the French-Soviet declaration in 1966. Regular meetings of the two heads of state have acquired decisive importance in insuring the stability and effectiveness of Soviet-French relations. Each of them becomes a powerful new impulse in the development of cooperation.

The official visit by Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, to France in June of 1977 was of great significance. As a result of the Soviet-French talks held then a number of documents of lasting importance were adopted, including the joint statement on the relaxation of international tension, the Soviet-French declaration on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, a whole set of agreements and understandings on economic and industrial cooperation. This was truly an example of how detente must and can be turned into reality.

Soviet-French cooperation always was directed toward the biggest issues of world politics. In the present situation new possibilities are arising in the search for points of convergence between the positions of both countries, for example of such burning issues as the cessation of the arms race and the transition to overall disarmament. The Soviet Union pays great attention to this problem. France's interest in it has become more active, and it has again taken its place on the Geneva Disarmament Committee and put forward several proposals in this field. In the meantime the approaches of the two countries to specific aspects of the problem of halting the growth of military arsenals and their subsequent reduction are quite far apart from each other, but the convergence of their viewpoints, considering the weight of the USSR and France in international affairs, opens up considerable prospects for a strengthening of detente.

Soviet-French Trade

[Kachanov] It is well known that one of the substantial foundations of relations between our countries is trade and economic cooperation. Within its framework the principle of most-favored nation status operates and a system of granting credits backed by state guarantees functions.

[Shirokov] Yes, indeed. The Soviet Union supplies France with very complex machinery, machine tools, electronic equipment, motor vehicles and tractors. Annually that country is supplied with about 200,000 Soviet radio receivers, roughly 300,000 watches and tens of thousands of cameras.

Over 15,000 tractors built in Minsk Lipetsk and Vladimir are working in the fields of France. Our Lada and Niva cars, which have quickly won popularity, have become commonplace on French roads. At the same time, in addition to industrial equipment the Soviet Union supplies France with such essential commodities as oil, petroleum products, gas, coal, cotton, asbestos and a number of other commodities. Over half the Soviet exports from France consist of machines and equipments. About 400 firms maintain business relations with Soviet foreign trade organizations. About 10 percent of the manpower in various branches of French engineering are engaged in fulfilling Soviet orders and this is most significant in conditions of mounting unemployment in the country.

Time has convincingly shown that the trade and economic cooperation between our countries accords with both our interests, and the Soviet Union is for France a dependable and beneficial partner.

A big role in the expansion of cooperation is played by mixed firms trading in machine tools, motor vehicles, tractors, watches, chemical goods, timber, timber products, perfumes and medicinal products. One such firm, Stanko-France, has been in existence over 7 years now. In that time various French firms have acquired over 4,000 machine tools and press and forging machines from it. They include such large French industrial groups as Creusot-Loire, Renault, Fasson, Alsthom and others. Through the mediation of Stanko-France a hydraulic press with a force of 65,000 tons, which has been called the king of machine tools by journalists, was acquired and installed in the town of Issoire. This wonder-press was, on the orders of the French side, designed, delivered in kit form to France and assembled by Soviet specialists. It has become a symbol of the possibilities of Soviet technology and industry and also a symbol of exemplary cooperation between France and the Soviet Union, as was emphasized by Giscard d'Estaing, the president of France.

[Kachanov] What new trends are to be seen in the trade and economic cooperation between our countries?

[Shirokov] Within the framework of this cooperation large-scale contracts on a compensatory and long-term basis are becoming more and more widespread. Some of the largest French firms are taking part in this positive direction of cooperation. For instance, a 10-year agreement on a compensatory basis has been concluded and is being successfully implemented with the Rhone-Poulenc firm in accordance with which the overall value of deliveries will exceed Fr 6 billion. In accordance with such an agreement the Technip firm will supply the Soviet Union with equipment for chemical plants worth almost Fr 2.5 billion. Payment for this will be made partly through the products of the enterprises being constructed.

The scientific-technical links between our countries have acquired tremendous scope. The scientists of the USSR and France are cooperating in the most varied fields from space physics, nuclear power engineering, astronomy and solar physics to shipbuilding. Contacts are broadening, for instance, in the field of agricultrue and stock-breeding. The USSR purchases pedigreed cattle--cows and bulls of the famous Charolais breed--and seeds for early ripening corn. France receives from the Soviet Union horses and from our plant breeders new varieties of sunflower and beets.

One of the more obvious spheres for Soviet-French exchanges is that of cultural cooperation. The tremendous success of the performances of troupes of the Bolshoy Theater and the Moscow Arts Theater, and by such outstanding performers as Svyatoslav Richter, Maya Plisetskaya and other Soviet artistes in France, and of performances of the Paris Grande Opera, artistes of La Maison de Moliere--as the Comedie Francaise theater is called--and the Paul Mariat Orchestra in the Soviet Union and many other French troupes and performers is evidence of the fact that in the field of culture and art there are virtually no spheres where there has not been a fruitful and mutually beneficial exchange between our countries.

[Kachanov] Yes, life shows that good relations between the Soviet Union and France accord with the interests of the peoples of the two countries, the cause of peace and the realization of international detente, and in broad French public circles they are regarded as an important factor in the country's political and economic life. But there certainly are forces opposed to a constructive development of Soviet-French relations.

Pro-Atlanticists in France

[Shirokov] Yes, of course. The development and deepening of cooperation between the Soviet Union and France has never been a simple matter, and even to the present day not all complications have been overcome. The enemies of detente--and they do exist in France--are not giving up their hopes of driving a wedge between the peoples and undermining the process of a steady growth of friendly Soviet-French links. It is enough to leaf through a few of the Paris newspapers and magazines to see for oneself that in France influential pro-Atlanticist forces, which are opposed to the course of detente and cooperation with the USSR, are still at work. They have become particularly active in connection with the coming elections to the so-called European parliament and calculate on gradually getting France back into the NATO military organization, from which, as is known, General de Gaulle, who was then the president of France, withdrew the country in 1962. However, the intrigues of the pro-Atlanticists are encountering resolute resistance from the country's democratic circles, and above all the French communists, and also all the country's political and public forces which adhere to the Gaullist ideas of national independence. In France the words of de Gaulle that the strength of French foreign policy lies in its independence have not been forgotten and there is quite concrete proof of this. Despite strong pressure from NATO, France recently declined to join in the Atlantic system of airborne radars, the so-called AWACS system, which was planned to be deployed along the borders with the Soviet countries. The French Government has repeatedly stated that it does not intend to return to the NATO military organization. The forays of the Atlanticists run counter to the interests of France, and on the contrary, as is shown by historical experience, the highest interests of France and the Soviet Union and the interests of peace and security require that, despite the intrigues by the opponents of detente, relations between the USSR and France continue in the future to bear the character of businesslike and mutually beneficial cooperation and continue to improve. The coming Soviet-French summit talks will undoubtedly facilitate this.

Proposed U.S. Bases in Italy

[Kachanov] You touched upon France's position toward the aggressive NATO bloc, but the position of the United States, the chief NATO power, is quite different. This is demonstrated by this cable from Brussels. As reported by the bulletin NOUVELLES-ATLANTIQUES, the NATO headquarters at Evere is now devising plans for the construction in Italy of military bases where it is proposed to concentrate ballistic medium-range nuclear missles--American ones, of course. The bulletin leads us to understand that the leaders of the North Atlantic bloc, and above all the United States, have already made a request to the Italian Government to give its consent for the location of these bases on the country's territory.

The United States, as is known, is trying to step up its military presence not only in Western Europe but also in other parts of the world. In connection with this, particular attention must be paid to the events linked with the development of the situation in the Near and Middle East. Nikolay Petrovich Khokhlov, IZVESTIYA observer, has joined our conversation.

[Khokhlov] Time has imposed its sentence on SEATO, the military bloc which included Britain, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines and Thailand.

It ceased existing back in 1975. At that time the West's political observers noted with justification that the collapse of SEATO was directly linked to the victory of the Vietnamese people and the refusal by the peoples of that region to support the American course of confrontation. Even then both the Philippines and Thailand declared their intention to follow a policy of detente. Subsequently, as is more or less well known, the countries which had earlier belonged to SEATO did quite a lot to bring the bloc policy to an end and to establish businesslike cooperation with neighboring countries.

This process is developing. Undoubtedly this favorable process could have gone on with greater concrete results, if Beijing had not interfered, with its strategy of hegemonism and adventurism, in the military sphere. But even so, even with the fairly complicated circumstances prevailing in that region, one cannot fail to notice the positive trend toward detente and normalization of the situation. I will quote just one example: The prime minister of Thailand is on an official visit to our country at the invitation of the Soviet Government. Bangkok, the capital of the Thai people, was for over 20 years where the headquarters of the SEATO bloc were located. I hope that the listeners will fully appreciate this point without comment on my behalf.

Collapse of CENTO

I began my talk with an event which took place over 3 years ago in Southeast Asia. But it is strikingly similar to the recent collapse of another aggression bloc, CENTO. Its godfather was John Foster Dulles, and at the very beginning the bloc was named after its birthplace, Baghdad. The July revolution of 1958 in Iraq overthrew the monarchy. The new government left the military alliance and the bloc, formed in 1955, was renamed CENTO, the Central Treaty Organization. Why central? Because the whole planet was gripped by aggressive alliances. Active in the north, and the most extensive--and not only in the geographical meaning of the word--was NATO, the main striking force of imperialism. In the Far East, in Asia, was SEATO, and between them, as if in the center of the U.S. world strategic line, nestled CENTO, comprising Britain, Turkey, Iran and Pakistan, and the United States was its associate member.

[Kachanov] Well, our press and radio have reported in some detail all the complications linked with the collapse of this offspring of the Western powers, too. Iran declared that it was leaving the bloc, and then Pakistan and Turkey did, too. There was nothing left for London to do but to prattle tonelessly about suspending its commitment to CENTO.

[Khokhlov] The collapse of the military blocs must not be examined in isolation, unconnected with the overall strategy of imperialism at the present time, divorced from the profound social processes which are taking place in the countries caught up in blocs which are active participants in pro-Western policy as a whole. Let us look through the mounting causes which led in the final analysis to the collapse of CENTO: The revolution in Iraq, then the triple aggression against Egypt in 1956, with the participation of Britain, a member of CENTO; the armed U.S. intervention in Lebanon; the invasion by British forces of the territory of Jordan, and so on and so forth. Of course, the decisive blow to the bloc were the Iranian events. Iran has ceased to play the role of regional policeman which was given to it by the United States. Important internal changes are being observed not only on the countries which belonged to the bloc but also in those outside their borders. We have in mind Afghanistan, which is far from indifferent about what sort of state is on its borders--a bloc state, overloaded with modern American weapons, or a truly independent one which has pulled out of the imperialist game.

Situation in Afghanistan

[Kachanov] In connection with this I would like to draw attention to the recent events in Afghanistan.

As you know, the rebellion raised by reactionaries and opponents of the present government of Afghanistan in Herat was very quickly suppressed. A statement published 2 days ago by the Afghan Government says that after the victory of the April revolution a group of traitors to the homeland, seeing that their interests were threatened, fled abroad. In areas populated by Pushtuns and Baluchis, I mean in Pakistan, and also in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan, in Rawalpindi and in other towns, reports are being spread about the activity of these enemies of Afghanistan. It is clear from the reports that they are carrying out special training in these areas in order to perpetrate subversive actions in Afghanistan. Instructors from certain imperialist countries and instructors from China are giving them considerable assistance, equipping them with arms, are providing them with propaganda media. And the reactionary elements, relying on this support, are not ceasing their blatant and aggressive interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs. The Pakistani Government, which tries to claim friendship and good relations with the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, has not curtailed the activity of these elements, despite the Afghan authorities' numerous contacts with it. Moreover, this activity has been stepped up.

Well, today it is not a secret to anyone what circles provide support for the counterrevolution. They are the feudal aristocracy which was deprived of its wealth and privileges by the revolution; they are the reactionary religious leaders. In their attempt to restore the power of the landowners and feudal lords in the country and the system which doomed the people to poverty and lack of rights, these elements are relying on support from outside. Thus the Pakistan paper AWAMI JUMHURIYAH, under the heading "Training of Partisans in Pakistan," says: A BBC correspondent has reported that he saw a partisan training camp in Peshawar, where Afghan reactionaries who have fled the country are carrying out partisan training in order to perpetrate subversive activity in Afghanistan. The report adds that such camps also exist in other areas of Pakistan. And at the same time the Pakistan Government declares that it knows nothing about this. It is now completely obvious that gangs of armed counterrevolutionaries are being implanted in Afghanistan from Pakistan, clearly with the knowledge of the latter's authorities.

[Khokhlov] To come back to the determining factors in the collapse of CENTO, we should say that always and everywhere they grow out of the national soil and are shaped by the state of development and nature of the liberation movements. The adherents of the policy and tactics of military blocs are totally unwilling either to understand or to reconcile themselves to that fact; they take note--as it has been described--of the collapse of the bloc, but they do not change their overall bloc-minded approach to the various events.

U.S. Arms Deals

Let us look at the example of the last few days. Hardly had it paid its last respects to CENTO than the United States could find nothing else to do than to resurrect the same policy of blocs in the Near East and the Indian Ocean. This finds verbal expression in the strategy of making good the loss suffered in Iran. Rushing to the aid of North Yemen, the Pentagon tried to do so via Saudi Arabia, regardless of the fact that the ruling circles there had also changed their mood somewhat, and not in favor of American strategy in that region. The Americans have started to supply North Yemen with arms worth almost $400 million, and hundreds of American military specialists have been sent there. The Israeli war minister, 'Ezer Weizman, has presented the U.S. administration with a list of arms which Israel must have for its notorious self-defense, Egypt, too, has made the same request to the United States. Neither is rejected. The upshot is that we see a paradoxical phenomenon: In concluding what they say is a peace treaty, at the very same time Israel and Egypt are placing all their hopes in Americans arms. And the American President's negotiations with the Egyptian and Israeli leaders--the pushing through of a second Camp David--were matched by intensified trips to Near East countries by Zbigniew Brzezinski, the U.S. President's national security assistant.

U.S. Bloc Strategy

A few days ago, Israeli foreign minister Moshe Dayan discussed with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance measures which the United States and Israel would have to take should Egypt violate the agreement. It's not hard to see the separate deal as spawning new conflicts in the Arab world, or to discover in it the U.S. intent to knock together a new CENTO-style military alliance, with very probably both Egypt and Israel as members. It is easier to stick together separate treaties than to settle the Near East problems as a whole, taking account of all the interested parties, including the issue of setting up an independent Palestinian state.

[Kachanov] Well, there are plans not just to expand the American military presence in the Near East and the Indian Ocean, but also to knock new military blocs together in the region. About a week ago the Indian weekly BLITZ, referring to authoritative diplomatic circles, reported literally this: The ground is being prepared to announce an important political event which--in the newspaper's words--will be of great moment for Asia and the entire world. According to information from these diplomatic circles, preparations are almost complete for announcing the creation of a new military alliance comprising Pakistan, Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia. It has become known that this is the most important decision made at a large number of totally secret meetings of American leaders.

[Khokhlov] Time has shown the futility of imperialism's policy of military blocs, which has inflicted enormous damage on the national interests of the developing countries. Progressives in the nonalined movement--and here they must be given their due--have decisively embarked upon the establishment of comprehensive contacts with the countries of the socialist community and have abandoned their one-sided leaning toward the capitalist West. A far-ranging and global approach to international problems and a realistic calculation of the forces in the modern world are what above all distinguishes any leader, responsible party, in any country, any premier or president in any part of our complex and restless world.

And here one can point to a very typical process in the public of the countries which were once part of closed aggressive groups: The peoples oppose military blocs. A vivid example is ASEAN, the Association of Southeast Asian nations, which includes Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. A few years ago the association was meant to be just another military organization the leadership of which was claimed by both Britain and the United States. But the powerful detente process brought its beneficial influence to bear on the director of ASEAN. The 1971 Kuala Lumpur declaration proclaimed that the purpose of the association was to do everything to promote the economic growth and social welfare of the peoples of the region.

[Kachanov] I remind you that on 22 March, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev emphasized in discussion with the Thai prime minister, Kriangsak Chamanan, that the Soviet Union took an understanding view of the Southeast Asian peoples' efforts to consolidate their sovereignty and security. The vital interests of all peoples of Asia and those of universal peace, Comrade Brezhnev said, would be served by the development in depth of the processes of detente there, and the development of genuinely goodneighborly cooperation among the states of the continent.

[Khokhlov] Such is the dialectic of modern politics: The atmosphere of mutual distrust and fear is gradually being replaced by the air of friendly intercourse among peoples, which is easier to breathe; and the ferroconcrete borders of military blocs, which maintain the confrontation between the various forces, are inevitably yielding to mutual understanding and businesslike cooperation.

USSR WILL NOT ALLOW U.S. TO GAIN MILITARY SUPERIORITY

LD2611145 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Mar 79 p 3 LD

[Article by L. Semeyko under the rubric "Imperialism's Strategic Concepts": "The Course Toward Military Superiority"]

[Text] The course toward military superiority is one of the Pentagon's main strategic principles. This is confirmed by the general practice of military development in the United States despite official Washington statements about wanting to maintain the prevailing balance of Soviet and U.S. forces. The main danger arising from this is that the achievement of military superiority would give certain influential U.S. circles the illusion that a nuclear war could be unleashed with impunity, an illusion which would cost the world dear.

The implementation of this course during the postwar period has gone through three main stages: the creation of an American monopoly of atomic weapons; with the loss of this monopoly, the U.S. desire to consolidate its strategic nuclear superiority; finally, attempts to break loose from the state of strategic parity and gain superiority over the Soviet Union in the strategic sphere. At all stages the Pentagon has sought and is seeking to use military superiority in order to exert forceful pressure on the Soviet Union and to acquire dominant political influence in the world and implement expansionist foreign policy ambitions.

As is known, when it lost its atomic monopoly the United States launched an unprecedented arms race in order to surpass the Soviet Union many times over in terms of the number of warheads and delivery means. The buildup of U.S. Air Force might was accompanied by a propaganda ballyhoo about the "aircraft gap" allegedly developing in favor of the USSR and the buildup of American nuclear missile might was accompanied by a campaign about the "threat of a missile gap." In other words, shouting about a mythical "Soviet threat" has served before as a smokescreen to safeguard American strategic superiority. The forces advocating this superiority, American military political researcher (E. Bottom) writes, "realized at an early stage in the arms race that there is no handier method of achieving their ends than that of convincing Congress of the future threat to American security from the Soviet capability to produce weapons systems."

Naturally, the Soviet Union could not fail to take into account the real threat to its security and took the necessary countermeasures to strengthen its strategic might. In 1972 the U.S. administration was forced to officially acknowledge the "end of indisputable U.S. superiority in strategic forces and its replacement by a strategic balance in which the nuclear forces of the United States and the Soviet Union are comparable."

This balance was an important factor in the general change in the correlation of forces in the world. It was also the material embodiment of the coordinated political principle of equality and equal security of the sides and a base intended to insure the successful resolution of the task of limiting and reducing strategic arms. The political significance of a stable strategic balance is indisputable; it is the guarantee not only of the two sides' security, but of international security as a whole.

This assessment of the significance of parity is shared by sensible circles in the United States, which recognize the danger of the destablization of the strategic balance which could occur as a result of new American spurts in the arms race for the sake of winning superiority again.

"We must acknowledge the fact," the Washington POST wrote not long ago, "that there is nothing more dangerous than the winner's crown in the military sphere. If we try to achieve that position, we risk committing suicide."

You could hardly put it more accurately. However, very influential forces in the United States, disregarding the real situation and the general correlation of forces in the modern world, are as before pinning their hopes on achieving military superiority. They assert that the United States can only achieve its foreign policy goals by being "nuclear power No 1."

As a result, in the officially proclaimed strategic concept concerning the required level of American strategic forces--the concept of so-called "essential equivalence"--the need for and expediency of maintaining strategic parity is only acknowledged as a formality. In practice this concept is aimed at assuming a position of superiority. Indeed, on the one hand it requires U.S. strategic force to yield nothing to the USSR's forces, including in the quantitative sphere. On the other hand, it stipulates military technical--in other words, qualitative--superiority for American strategic might. And Washington makes no secret of this. "Short-term and long-term draft programs in science and technology are balanced in such a way as to insure our technical superiority over probable enemies," U.S. Defense Secretary H. Brown states.

It must be clear to everyone that in the age of the scientific and technical revolution qualitative innovations, particularly in nuclear weapons systems, could have far-reaching strategic and political consequences. The correlation of strategic forces is very sensitive to any disproportions. There could be an equal number of means of delivering strategic nuclear weapons, but if one of the sides insured superiority for itself in all or nearly all the most important characteristics of these weapons, it would possess superiority. And it is to this end that the Pentagon's efforts in developing arms are directed: While acquiring unilateral advantages in this or that indicator in strategic weapons, to achieve the elimination of or at least a substantial reduction in Soviet advantages in other indicators.

The Pentagon's desire for military superiority can also be clearly seen in the strategic concept of "multiple targets" which is currently being developed. This refers, in particular, to the creation of 300 mobile MX missiles which, by being secretly moved, for instance among 4,000 shelters (silos), would create a situation of "multiple targets" for "Soviet strikes." The Pentagon considers that this would achieve vulnerability for the ground component of the American strategic forces. Even the American press admits that the secret relocation of ground-based strategic missiles would also create the conditions for secretly increasing their numbers, that is, for violating the strategic balance which has become established and acquiring a position of superiority.

There is another negative side to the concept of "multiple targets." MX missiles, as U.S. military specialists stress, are developed to have much greater accuracy than the existing Minuteman missiles and a more powerful warhead. The MX is to supplement measures being carried out to creat "disarming strike" facilities such as Trident-2 sea missiles, the highly accurate and more powerful MK-12A warheads and so forth. Thus, in this respect too, the "multiple targets" concept is aimed at insuring military superiority.

Influential U.S. circles' desire for military superiority is manifested in other spheres too. Take the U.S. military budget, for example. It grows constantly, year by year, reaching a record total.

The purpose of this increase was unequivocally revealed by M. Brown: "We must surpass the Russians in terms of plans and results with the resources we possess, plus the regular increments we demand." A considerable proportion of the Pentagon's overinflated budgets goes to implement the latest scientific and technical achievements in order to achieve "breakthroughs" which would reestablish, if only temporarily a U.S. monopoly on the means of armed struggle and thus upset the existing Soviet-American strategic parity. "The vague yet growing feeling that Washington is resorting to technical solutions to political problems is causing great alarm," the magazine BUSINESS WEEK wrote in this connection.

The danger of these "technical solutions" is obvious. They would be bound to lead to an increase in the sides' military potentials, the whipping up of the arms race and, consequently, a greater threat of war.

The Soviet Union's policy is directed toward averting this threat. "Mankind's most urgent and burning task today," Comrade L.I. Brezhnev said in his speech at the election meeting with the voters of Moscow's Baumanskiy Electoral Okrug, "is to halt the arms race and avert the threat of a world nuclear war. The Soviet Union, like the other socialist countries, is sparing no effort in the struggle for these goals."

Attempts to acquire military superiority are futile, both politically and militarily. The Soviet Union has repeatedly given convincing evidence that our country cannot and will not allow the other side to have military superiority. Any American action in this sphere is bound to result in corresponding neutralizing counteraction. The Soviet Union proposes that the established strategic balance be stabilized and that its level be consistently lowered not because it is unable to keep up with the United States in creating ultramodern types and systems of weapons, but because it regards this kind of competition as senseless and extremely dangerous.

As Comrade L.I. Brezhnev said, the Soviet Union believes that "approximate equality and parity are enough for defense needs. It is not our aim to seek military superiority. We also know that this very concept becomes meaningless in the context of today's massive stockpiles of nuclear weapons and delivery means."

The Pentagon's course toward military superiority contradicts not only the specific Soviet-American understanding on observance of the principle of equality and identical security but also international detente as a whole, to which there is no reasonable alternative. This course confirms that aggressive lines continue to exist in U.S. military strategy and policy. This fact demands an increase in vigilance on the part of Soviet troops and the maintenance of high combat readiness and strengthening of military might by our armed forces.

PENTAGON EFFORT TO DEVELOP 'EXOTIC' RAY WEAPONS ATTACKED

LD231033 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Mar 79 p 5 LD

[Yevgeniy Grigoryev commentary: "High Time"]

[Text] Barbarous and destructive new types of weapons are being developed in the United States. "Engineer Garin's Hyperboloid" in the novel of the same name by Aleksey Tolstoy was, according to the author, "the most terrible weapon ever devised by mankind." Now, unfortunately, there is not an artistic invention but a real threat to millions of people. [paragraph continues]

The U.S. military department recently published a report which, as AP reports, "states that the 'death rays' which have been written about in science-fiction stories for decades will become a perfectly real combat weapon in the near future."

Following the inhuman neutron bomb, death rays--the so-called "chemical laser"--are already being tested in Pentagon laboratories. Other "technical novelties," like guns that use electric power to launch shells at "hypersonic" speed, are also being designed there. "The United States is reckoning on adding all this to its arsenal at some time," the agency reports.

The publication of information on the developments being carried out has a strictly practical purpose: To substantiate the Pentagon's request for $462 million earmarked to research and design "exotic," as the American press terms it, types of weapons.

The continuing use of the potential of scientific and technical progress for military purposes is leading to the emergency of increasingly ruthless means of mass destruction, before which all fiction pales. The arms race is threatening to shift to a qualitatively new plane. This is extremely dangerous for mankind. The Pentagon report, which reveals just part of the picture of barbarous "exotica," cannot fail to arouse serious concern among the peoples.

The Soviet Union long since launched the initiative of agreeing to ban the creation of new means and systems of mass destruction weapons and concluding an appropriate agreement. Specific proposals have been submitted at the United Nations and at the disarmament talks being held in Geneva. Their realization would be of the greatest significance. It would promote the practical limitation of the arms race and totally block its possible new directions.

It is high time to tackle the resolution of this task in a businesslike manner in order to insure that no "hyperboloids" jeopardize mankind's future.

U.S. MONOPOLIES USING IRANIAN OIL BAN TO RAISE PRICES

LD251706 Moscow TASS in English 1202 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Washington, March 25, TASS--U.S. petroleum monopolies launched a noisy campaign whose main aim is to achieve uncontrolled increase of prices of oil and oil products. There is a stream of reports about the impending energy crisis in the United States which is, allegedly, connected with the ending of deliveries of Iranian oil. Oil monopolies borne up [as received] these disquieting reports with cutting by 10-15 percent supplies of oil and oil products to consumers. As a result of this, several airlines had to close a number of routes and the alarming signs "no gasoline" appeared at filling stations in a number of American towns. This brings back to the minds of Americans the grim memories of the 1973 energy crisis. Facts show, however, that the reduction of oil extraction in Iran is merely a convenient pretext for the monopolies, wishing the ending of the governments control over prices of oil. Senator James Sasser said he had information that tankers with oil were anchored off the coasts of the USA and they were not being unloaded until oil prices are increased. The senator also recalled that in the autumn of last year representatives of the administration declared that the ending of deliveries of the Iranian oil would not substantially affect the supply with [as received] oil, since these deliveries account for only an insignificant percentage of imported oil and can easily be compensated for with the increase of oil purchases from Saudi Arabia and other countries.

The question of complete or partial removal of control over prices of oil was discussed recently at a conference of President of the United States Carter and his economic advisers and ministers in Camp David.

The administration justifies this step saying that it stimulated petroleum companies to increase extraction of oil in the United States. But according to the public opinion survey held recently by the ASSOCIATED PRESS jointly with the television company N.B.C., about 70 percent of Americans regard reports about shortage" of oil as a far-fetched pretext for further spiralling of prices of oil by petroleum monopolies. Experts believe that the lifting of the control over prices will cost to American consumers at least 15 billion dollars. These sums will go to the strong-rooms of oil tycoons. The public of the United States protests against this new lavish gift to oil monopolies, a leader of the public organization expressing the interests of consumers in the sphere of energy said at a press conference here.

U.S. CIRCLES VIEW SAUDI ARABIA AS U.S. STATE

LD231552 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Arabic to the Arab World 1630 GMT 22 Mar 79 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] AP reports that U.S. Senator Jacob Javits has said that the United States should use military force in the event of a threat to the oilfields in Saudi Arabia. In other words, the threat of U.S. military intervention will always hang over Saudi Arabia, one of the biggest oil producers. To cover this disgraceful policy of the big stick, for which U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt was famous early in this century, Senator Javits was careful to confirm his respect for Saudi Arabia's dignity and national sovereignty. He pointed out at the same time that the United States should finally understand that Saudi oil resources will be important to the United States for the next 10 years at least, with their significance being the same as that of Texas oil. Thus, the senator openly admitted a fact which has long been planted in the minds of U.S. political leaders, oilmen and bankers: U.S. imperialism looks at Saudi Arabia as a sovereign state--as long as the United States can benefit from Saudi oil resources. If this is the case, it is no wonder that Senator Javits should claim the right to defend it from external dangers and define its policy exactly as he has the right to defeine U.S. policy.

We do not know what the opinion of Saudi officials will be on this role which Senator Javits has given to Saudi Arabia. However, we believe that it is very proper to mention here the statement made by Prince Saud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister, to the Lebanese AL-HAWADITH. He said that the only threat to Gulf security is the danger of foreign intervention. Is not such intervention exactly what aggressive U.S. quarters are looking for a chance to carry out?

WASHINGTON HAS NOT LEARNED LESSON ON MILITARY BLOCS

LD212304 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1327 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

["Blocs: When the Lesson Is Not Learned"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow--Washington has not learned its lesson from the collapse of reactionary military groupings, NOVOYE VREMYA notes.

"The CENTO bloc," the weekly writes, "has departed this life just like its analog in Southeast Asia, SEATO, did a few years ago, and just like another such grouping, ASPAC (the Asian-Pacific Council). "In other words, an obvious natural law can be observed: In an epoch when the tendency toward detente is growing in the world, when the peoples of the East no longer wish to serve the interests of the aggressive imperialist circles which are alien to them and they are striving to strengthen friendly relations with all countries regardless of their social and political structure, the proimperialist military-political alliances have become an anachronism and outdated. And it can only cause amazement that some people in the West have not learned this clear lesson.

"How else can one explain the attempts that Washington has compulsively undertaken recently to throw together a new alliance in the Near East region under its leadership with openly policing functions? Its backbone is to comprise Israel and Egypt, and the Pentagon and White House cherish the hope of joining Saudi Arabia and Jordan to it in the future." And modern "gunboats" in the shape of aircraft carriers and destroyers are being transferred at full speed to the vicinity of southern Asia and Arabia, NOVOYE VREMYA continues. According to the plans of Pentagon strategists, these vessels are to form the nucleus of a new U.S. naval formation in the Indian Ocean to be called the U.S. fifth fleet. Vast consignments of U.S. weapons are being sent to southern Arabia, to North Yemen posthaste. Is this the old stake once again? The fate of all the previous bankrupt U.S. military ventures and military-strategic constructions in Asia should cool off the hotheads who rely only on force of arms and make them think about the realities of the modern world.

U.S. BILL ON TAIWAN CHANGES ONLY 'LABELS' ON TIES

LD231411 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Mar 79 p 5 LD

[TASS report: "Changing Labels"]

[Text] Washington, 21 March--The U.S. Congress conference committee has approved the final version of the administration's bill on the new status of U.S. relations with Taiwan in connection with "the normalization of relations" between Washington and Beijing. The bill reaffirms the "unshakability" of American-Taiwanese relations, although they will be termed "unofficial." It envisages maintaining the entire complex of ties with Taipei at the previous level and the inviolability of U.S. political and economic interests in Taiwan. Practically all the bilateral treaties and agreement will remain in force. The sides will keep their missions with full diplomatic privileges.

As if to confirm the fact that it is no more than a mere "change of labels," the bill requires the U.S. administration to supply Taiwan with a "sufficient quantity of defensive weapons," which includes military deliveries worth $850 million already promised by the Pentagon. The bill demands that the administration retain the "capability" to defend the island "if necessary" and states that "any armed attack on Taiwan will give the United States cause for grave concern." According to an article in the bill, control over the administration's strict fulfillment of Congress' orders will be implemented by appropriate commissions.

But the American legislators do not confine themselves to this gesture to Taipei; they envisage maintaining the administration's guarantees with respect to U.S. corporations' capital investments in Taiwan, "to strengthen business confidence."

COMMENTATOR CONSIDERS 'LESSONS' OF PRC INVASION

LD240936 Moscow in Czech and Slovak to Czechoslovakia 1600 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

[Commentary by Moscow Radio observer Aleksey Leontyev: "Lessons to be Learned from the Chinese Adventure"]

[Text] The Chinese aggression in Vietnam lasted 1 month. It was not a mere counter-attack by frontier troops or a localized limited action, as Beijing claims. It was a premeditated large-scale war of the present day "sons of heaven" who set themselves the aim of enslaving Vietnam and clearing the way for subjugating the whole of Indochina and the whole of Southeast Asia. It was a criminal, foolhardy, and very dangerous adventure by Beijing which threatened peace in the whole world. It took place with the tacit support of the United States, Britain and other countries of the aggressive NATO bloc whose ruling circles hoped, with the aid of Beijing, (?to deal a serious blow) to the position of the world socialist community.

China's attack on Vietnam, wrote the New York POST, is the first result of our policy of playing the Chinese card, in which judging from appearances, the cards were shuffled by Beijing. When Beijing took such an important place at the card table, it did not forget its mercenary interests, and dealt the cards to suit itself. How did the last round of this hazardous game end? Did China not disappoint the hopes of its patrons? Did it succeed in punishing Vietnam, as Deng Xiaoping boasted it would during his visit to the United States?

The view of foreign observers and military experts, including Western ones, is unanimous. An [word indistinct] aggression against a neighboring country whose population is 20 times smaller and whose territory is 29 times smaller, cannot be justified by any references to China's security interests. It is laughable and absurd to say that small Vietnam is threatening or provocative towards China. Nevertheless, such hypocritical talk can still be heard in Beijing today. The aggression against the SRV caused China great moral and political damage, and put in a very bad light its patrons and supporters, who started flirting with Beijing, and who gave assurances that China had become a peace-loving and judicious member of the world community.

From the example of China's adventure in Vietnam, mankind has been convinced of the value of deliberating Beijing's peace-loving nature. With their [word indistinct] thuggish attack on the small neighboring country of Socialist Vietnam--an attack which has no parallel--the present-day Beijing rulers definitely exposed to the whole world the perfidious aggressive nature of their great-power hegemonistic policy, said Comrade Brezhnev in his speech to the electorate.

Today it is clear to all that it is precisely this policy which at the present time constitutes the most serious threat to peace in the whole world. Today we are more aware than ever before of the danger of any kind of assistance to this policy. Beijing's aggressive actions aroused anger and indignation in all countries in the world. The ruthlessness, brutality and hypocricy of the Chinese authorities, who assumed the right to punish their neighbors, has alarmed both the countries of Southeast Asia and Asia as a whole.

The willfulness and arrogance of Mao's successors, the ease with which they take up arms and threaten universal peace, has forced several Western politicians and entrepreneurs who previously were prepared to supply China with modern weapons to think seriously. Now, at long last they are beginning to appreciate that Beijing is not the sort of partner they can trust. Its actions are unpredictable, and could turn into a tragedy for all peoples.

The WALL STREET JOURNAL emphasizes that China took a risk which could have turned into a more extensive war involving several other countries both in Asia and beyond.

Some people might say that although China suffered a moral and political defeat, it nevertheless gained something militarily. However, not even in this respect did China gain anything. Its military adventure is an obvious failure. The Chinese leadership failed to attain any of the objectives it set itself before the invasion if we disregard the senseless and barbaric damage which the interventionists inflicted on the areas of Vietnam they temporarily occupied. If Beijing punished anybody, it was itself. This is the opinion of the majority of Western observers. The U.S. military observer [word indistinct] (?Levitan) assesses the main mistake of the Chinese command as underrating the fighting experience, weaponry, and combat skills of the defenders of Vietnam. The Vietnamese fought heroically, expertly and with determination. They thwarted all attempts of the interventionists to penetrate deep into the country and to inflict great damage. From 17 February to 18 March the Vietnamese eliminated 62,500 soldiers, destroyed 550 military vehicles, including 280 tanks and armoured vehicles and 115 heavy artillery pieces, and captured large quantities of weapons and equipment. The Chinese leadership came up against powerful counterattacks by the Vietnamese soldiers, and came face to face with the decisive demand of the Soviet Union and the other countries of the socialist community, as well as the entire world public, to halt the aggression and to pull out its troops from Vietnam. It had to give way.

The withdrawal of the interventionist troops is a great and glorious victory of the army and the people of Vietnam and of its friends, who helped and fully supported the fraternal people. Beijing's military adventure has failed. However, China's aggression continues. Beijing troops continue to occupy parts of Vietnamese territory. New forces are concentrated on the border with the SRV, on the border with Laos, and an attack on this country is being prepared. All this calls for constant vigilance on the part of all peoples and strenuous efforts designed to thwart any further Chinese provocations which threaten universal peace.

BEIJING SAID TO NURTURE PLAN OF WAR, EXPANSION IN INDOCHINA

LD241744 Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1400 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[Aleksandr Druzhinin commentary]

[Text] Reports coming in from Southeast Asia indicate that Beijing keeps on aggravating the dangerous military tensions in that region. Comment is by a political observer of Soviet television and radio, Aleksandr Druzhinin, and this is what he writes:

The Chinese invaders have not yet fully withdrawn from Vietnam. But war clouds are already gathering at the borders of another country in Indochina: Laos. The war is being prepared in Beijing. The events are developing under the same kind of scenario by which China prepared its attack on Vietnam. Chinese troops are being concentrated along the Lao border. Beijing is provoking border incidents. Attempts are being made to invade the territory of that independent country. All this shows that the aggression against Socialist Vietnam is only part of a broad plan of war and expansion nurtured by the Beijing hegemonists, and the plan is not confined to Southeast Asia.

The Chinese presence in any part of the world means aggravation of tensions and threatens the tranquillity and security of nations. There are many examples of subversive activities by Beijing against other countries, and the facts are now known throughout the world.

It was Chinese provocateurs, together with certain quarters in some Western countries, who backed the terrorist gangs that recently penetrated the territory of Democratic Afghanistan. Beijing maintains its subversive activities on Indian territory as well. The Chinese authorities keep inciting, arming and supporting rebels from the Naga and Mizo tribes that live in the northeast of India. One can also recall recent history. For example, together with the racist regimes in southern Africa, Beijing tried to put down the struggle of the people of Angola for their independence. Another case in point is in Kampuchea. In that country for several years running China supported a despotic unpopular regime and turned the land of Kampuchea into a stronghold for its military preparations in Asia. More examples could be cited.

But isn't it clear that Beijing's policy is a serious threat to world peace? It would be naive to try to soothe oneself with the idea that the Beijing aggressors are so far acting comparatively far from Europe and America. In this time, Mao Zedong dreamed of a Chinese expansion up to San Francisco. The present Beijing leaders, instead of giving up the doctrines for conquest by the great helmsman, are using them in practice. And people who keep flirting with Beijing are shortsighted. Apparently some of them refuse to think what price may have to be paid for this in the future.

CHINESE TROOPS INTRUDE INTO LAO TERRITORY

LD231500 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Stanislav Blazhenkov, our special correspondent in the Southeast Asian countries, reports:

Lately the Chinese troops concentrated along the border with Laos have been constantly intruding into Lao territory. Several Chinese battalions have penetrated up to 3 kilometers into Lao territory over a stretch 9 kilometers long. When two Lao representatives were sent to Thsi mountain region in the northern Lao province of Phongsali, the Chinese captured them. According to Radio Vientiane, Chinese troops have occupied a number of posts in the three border provinces of Laos.

Mass meetings are taking place in towns and provinces. The participants are declaring their full support for the policy of the People's Revolutionary Party and the Government of Laos and their determination to rebuff the aggressive designs of the Chinese expansionists. The Lao people are vigilantly watching China's designs and are prepared to uphold their freedom and independence.

PRC WARNED AGAINST MOVES IN LAOS

LD250720 Moscow TASS in English 0709 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD

["PRAVDA's commentator: Dangerous Sabre-Rattling" TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 25, TASS--"The threat to Laos is the threat to independence and sovereignty of all states in South East Asia. China's outright sabre-rattling causes indignation of the world public". This is how Igor Lebedev comments in PRAVDA on the stepping up of the provocative actions of the Beijing authorities against the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Chinese units, tanks, artillery, armoured carriers are being concentrated along the Laotian border, the commentator writes. Military exercises are held in districts adjoining Laos. Armed groups of saboteurs are being brought into northern provinces of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Close to the populated localities of Boteng and Muong of Luang Namtha Province, Chinese armed units invaded the territory of Laos and seized some districts.

Ethnic Chinese residing in the Lao People's Democratic Republic are increasingly involved in the hostile activity directed against the lawful Laotian Government. Armed groups of ethnic Chinese are being formed to be brought into operation in case of China's attack on Laos. The Beijing authorities, the commentary says, also give support and backing to reactionaries Vang Pao and Kong Le who fled Laos. They managed to gather near the border several thousand of so-called "Lao patriots" to organize systematic provocations against the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Incendiary activity aimed at undermining the security of the country is conducted among the national minorities of Laos.

"China's hostile actions against a small country are ominously similar to the situation on the Chinese-Vietnamese border before Beijing launched a military intervention against Socialist Vietnam", the commentator stresses.

"The Soviet Union, fraternal socialist countries," the commentary says in conclusion," demand that China should stop military demonstrations on the borders of Laos and stop preparations for invasion of Laos. As it was stressed in the Soviet Government's statement, the Chinese aggressors must realize that the more crimes they commit, the severer the retribution will be."

GONREN RIBAO ARTICLE ON 'EXONERATIONS' REVIEWED

OW240058 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to China 1430 GMT 22 Mar 79 OW

[Lazhin commentary: "Black Sheep and Their Problems with the Authorities"]

[Excerpts] After Hua Guofeng assumed power, particularly after Deng Xiaoping gained power, the Beijing ruling clique launched a propaganda campaign which ranted about exonerating those who were persecuted by Mao Zedong and the gang of four. However, as time passes the people have found that instead of trying to exonerate those who were persecuted, the Beijing ruling clique has adopted all kinds of tricks to prevent them from being exonerated. People have seen that those at Zhongnanhai are only interested in exonerating the big shots. They mainly try to exonerate them posthumously. However, many people are still eagerly waiting to have their honor restored. This hopeless waiting has finally awakened many people who were persecuted by Mao Zedong. They have begun coming to Beijing, submitting appeals to the authorities.

However, those who have come to Beijing have not won much sympathy. GONREN RIBAO has even opened fire on them by calling them "bad elements." It said that "These bad elements, on the pretext of asking for exoneration, have gone to various leading organs to utter nonsense, make trouble, and disrupt normal work, production and social order." It reported that "They have even set forth some agitating slogans to confuse people's minds and have spread rumors to create trouble." GONREN RIBAO called them "black sheep" and threatened them by saying that if they ignore the warning and continue to make trouble, they will be punished according to the law.

Why have the Chinese authorities so furiously attacked those who were persecuted by Mao Zedong? The reason is that although those people are opposed to the gang of four, they are actually opposed to the anti-people policies of Mao Zedong's military, bureaucratic regime.

Those who were persecuted by Mao Zedong have now received a new label--"black sheep." It will not be very long before these "black sheep" are labeled "class enemies."

At present, more and more people in China are becoming dissatisfied with the current policies of the present Beijing ruling clique. After Mao Zedong died, many people in China hoped that their lives would be improved. Now they certainly have doubts in their minds in this regard.

YOUTH DEMONSTRATIONS REPORTED IN SHANGHAI

OW240134 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to Southeast Asia 1400 GMT 21 Mar 79 OW

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The city of Shanghai has witnessed a number of demonstrations recently. This large Chinese city has been permeated with youthful turmoil for weeks this winter. The youths who returned to Shanghai to spend their spring festival holidays and visit their relatives there have refused to go back to the secluded, mountainous and rural areas where they were settled in exile a decade ago following Mao Zedong's orders. It should be pointed out that the number of young people settled in the mountainous and rural areas throughout China reaches several dozen million, and all of them are junior and senior middle school graduates. The youths have organized demonstrations and parades in places in Shanghai which are frequented by large numbers of foreign travelers. This has been designed to gain public attention for their predicament.

(Xu Baolong), the organizer of the demonstrations, never returned to the state farm in Heilongjiang where he had been steeled. He gave a written appeal to a foreign correspondent for transmittal to Shanghai Mayor Peng Chong, but it never reached the mayor. According to the appeal, educated youths, who are forced to live under difficult conditions, have requested work assignments and housing facilities in their hometown of Shanghai. (Xu Baolong) emphatically pointed out in the appeal: Local leaders enjoy great power and have full authority in exercising it. They have every right to make our lives difficult. They can stop payment of our monthly wage which is no more than 32 yuan, or issue foods of inferior quality in lieu of the wage. This can hardly be called "living." It is hopeless torture. (Xu Baolong) said: We gathered some 600-700 youths but many did not take part in the demonstrations for fear of persecution. They have every reason not to participate in them.

A great daring spirit and determination are needed for young people to make open protests like this. The Chinese youths are now waging a struggle for their own rights under difficult conditions. The adventurist policy pursued by the former and present Chinese leadership has wrecked the foundation of the national economy. The result is unemployment among the young people. Now, the youths have become increasingly determined to demand protection of their rights to live and work.

'SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS' REPORTEDLY ARRESTED IN PRC

LD251950 Moscow TASS in English 1746 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Beijing, March 25, TASS--The newspaper JIEFANG RIBAO reports that arrests of "subversive elements" are being made in China's largest city of Shanghai on an instruction of the city security board, and measures are being taken to cut short the posting up of "subversive" wall posters, leaflets and streamers. Similar measures are being taken lately in the PRC's other cities, too.

PRC'S CALL FOR RETURN OF JESUIT ORDER NOTED

OW251321 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to China 1430 GMT 22 Mar 79 OW

[Text] Chinese leaders have made contacts with the Jesuit order. Since liberation in 1949, China has banned activities of this order in China. According to a report from the (?Vatican), Beijing authorities expressed their wish at the beginning of this year for Jesuit members to return to China to perform manual labor and pray as they have done for the past 400 years. This confirmed a statement issued by the Jesuit leader (Petro Laoluby) at the Vatican a few days ago.

While commenting on this report, foreign observers noted the fact that the Jesuit order is an ally of imperialism and Catholic authoritarianism [jiao quan zhu yi 2403 2938 0031 5030] which oppose socialism and communism. It was also reported that the Jesuit order actively cooperated with Mussolini and Hitler.

Observers emphatically point out that by making every effort to approach Jesuit members and showing special reverence for the Jesuit order, the current Chinese leadership is trying to lure Jesuit members to actively participate in the struggle to oppose the Soviet Union and other socialist nations.

CHINESE IN MONGOLIA ACCUSED OF 'POOR WORKMANSHIP'

LD222125 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1324 GMT 22 Mar 79 LD

["Criminal Activities"--TASS headline]

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 22 March, TASS--Many Chinese living in the Mongolian Peoples Republic behave improperly, the Ulaanbaatar MEDEE (news of Ulaanbaatar) newspaper writes:

The newspaper points out that a large number of foreign citizens now live in Mongolia and, taking advantage of the opportunities and rights offered them, make their own contribution towards the building of socialism in the Mongolian People's Republic [MPR]. However, some Chinese citizens are violating the laws and customs of the MPR. This is expressed in the unlawful use, selling and plundering of state property and funds; in poor quality of workmanship; in deception and in [presumably false] registrations; in the organization of private and forbidden production; speculation and smuggling; in growing poppies for making opium and the sale of it to others; in corruption and in many other crimes.

The newspaper cites specific cases of illegal acts by Chinese living in the MPR who have been punished under the criminal law for various offenses, including theft of state property. A considerable number of Chinese, the newspaper also says, do not respect the rules and customs of the country in which they are, and do not observe our laws.

The newspaper reports that Chinese citizens who had committed repeated crimes have recently been expelled from the MPR. The newspaper emphasizes that foreign citizens resident in the MPR are, like citizens of the country, obliged to respect and to observe strictly the laws and customs of the MPR and the customs of the Mongolian people.

JAPANESE RULING CIRCLES' REVIVAL OF 'MILITARISM' SCORED

LD241942 Moscow TASS in English 1904 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Tokyo, March 24, TASS--TASS correspondent Vladimir Kuchky reports:

Ganri Yamashita, head of the Japan Defence Agency, has declared for restoration of the chauvinistic spirit of the former imperial army in the Japanese "Self-Defence Forces". Speaking in the parliamentary debate today he said that the imperial decree on military service raised the bellicose spirit in the army and among the young people. "Despite the changes that took place after the war, its provisions should be restored in the Japanese armed forces," Ganri Yamashita said.

The imperial decree called for implanting militarism and chauvinism, the use of the army for suppressing the democratic movement. In accordance with the decree, the actions of the military were not controlled by parliament. As a result, it became a starting point for militarization of the country and unleashing predatory wars by Japanese imperialism.

Yamashita's statement is a manifestation of the Japanese ruling circles' course of propaganda and revival of militarism, in politics, economics, education and culture. The Japan Defence Agency demands, specifically, broader military training at schools in order to implant the bellicose chauvinistic spirit among the young people. New school programs already now omit the peaceful provisions of the Constitution, which prohibit establishment of armed forces and which proclaim Japan's renunciation of war for all time.

The military does not limit itself to calls. The Japan Defence Agency stubbornly presses for the parliament's approval of the emergency "war time" legislation, which flouts the democratic gains of the Japanese working people. The Japan Defence Agency in the next few days intends to launch in the country a mass campaign with a view to build up the "Self Defence" Forces and adopt emergency laws, the KYODO TSUSHIN news agency reports.

The peace-loving forces of Japan, above all the communists, resolutely denounce the policy of the ruling and military circles, which is dangerous to peace and democracy. They urge the democratic public to give a resolute rebuff to the militarists' plans.

DPRK CONSTRUCTION WORKERS GROUP ARRIVES IN KIEV

SK231232 Moscow in Korean to Korea 0930 GMT 22 Mar 79 SK

[Text] A delegation of Pyongyang city construction workers headed by the director of the east Pyongyang industrial construction (?enterprise) Comrade Chu Yong-ha, now visiting the USSR, arrived yesterday in Kiev city, the capital of Ukrainian SSR.

The Korean guests met with chairman of the Union of Societies for Friendship of the Republic Comrade (Otsunazu) and members of the Ukrainian Committee of Soviet-Korea friendship Society.

Members of the delegation will stay in Kiev city for 5 days, during which they are to tour various scenic spots, enterprises and construction sites there.

SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN RECEIVES CONTINUED PUBLICITY

Commentary on Events

LD232244 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The news about the routing of counterrevolutionary and reactionary elements which had tried to cause disturbances in several parts of Afghanistan has been received with profound satisfaction by the Afghan public. For a commentary on the latest news, at the microphone is all-union radio correspondent in Kabul (Viktor Vasilyevich)

The successes of the People's Democratic Republic of Afghanistan give no peace to international reaction, the forces of imperialism and the leftwing extremists which are organizing plots and intrigues against the new, progressive system. The Western reactionaries and Chinese propaganda are making up concoctions about the situation in Afghanistan and are interfering in an unprincipled manner in that country's internal affairs.

The armed forces of the Democratic Republic and the entire people of the country have risen to defend the gains of the revolution. A plot in the west of the country, in Herat, has been eliminated. Individual sorties by reactionary elements in the east, on the Afghan-Pakistani border, are being (?stopped completely). A tranquil atmosphere is being maintained in the country. Everyday life is proceeding at a measured pace.

The Western mass media is trying to make the world public believe that religion is being persecuted in Afghanistan and that believers are being victimized. However, during the Muslim spring festival of New Year, Nou Ruz, thousands of Muslims of Kabul and other of the country's towns visited the mosques and took part in mass festivities on the occasion of the festival.

The wave of well-attended meetings and demonstrations in support of the revolutionary Government of the DRA continues. The people of the country demand an end to the aggressive interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs and state their complete support for the revolutionary government which is carrying out progressive socio-economic transformations.

Charges of Pakistani, PRC Interference

LD231930 Moscow TASS in English 1652 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Kabul, March 23, TASS--The People's Organization of Afghanistan Youth, uniting over 250,000 Afghan youths and girls, resolutely supports the domestic and foreign policy pursued by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and by the revolutionary government, and resolutely condemns the intrigues by counterrevolutionary and reactionary forces aimed at hampering a successful building of a new life, said Abdurrahman Amin, vice chairman of the organisation's Presidium. It is well known who are behind the counterrevolutionaries, and who incite and encourage them to criminal activity: Those are certain circles of Pakistan and Beijing reactionaries acting hand in glove with imperialism. It is they who gave aid to bandits and cut-throats that tried to stage unrest in Herat. It is they who infiltrate provocateurs and terrorists that disguise themselves in Moslem attire into our country. Whatever the perfidious criminal methods the counterrevolution resorts to, it will not achieve its dark goals. The Afghan youth, like the entire 15 million Afghan people, are fully resolved to uphold the gains of the revolution, Abdurrahman Amin said in conclusion.

More on Afghan Government Statement

LD231050 Moscow TASS in English 0842 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Kabul, March 23, TASS--A statement of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has been published here. The statement runs:

Immediately after the victory of the liberation revolution the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan clearly stated that it was striving for good relations with neighbouring countries, for peace in the region and in the whole world in order to further the revolutionary programmes which meet the interests of the working people. Facts, however, show that international reaction, imperialism, and "left" extremists, weaving conspiracies and resorting to all sorts of intrigues, raise obstacles in the way of our revolution.

After the victory of the April revolution, a group of traitors of the motherland, when they saw that their interests were imperilled, fled abroad for fear of the people. Reports on activities of these enemies of our people are being circulated in areas populated by Pushtuns and Baluchis, and also in the centre of Pakistan--Islamabad and Rawalpindi and other towns. As is clear from these reports, in the above-mentioned areas they undergo special training to conduct subversive actions in Afghanistan. Instructors from some imperialist countries and left extremist aggressors give them major assistance, provide them with arms and means of propaganda. Having this support, the reactionary elements continue their undisguised and aggressive interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs. The Government of Pakistan, which claims to want friendship and good relations with the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, has not stopped activities of these elements, despite numerous contacts made with it by the Afghan authorities. Moreover, these activities have invigorated.

The courageous people of Afghanistan, which crushed the aggressors and oppressors, will also give a lesson to their mercenaries. The whole of the Afghan people, men and women, old folk, and young people will inflict a crushing blow by an iron fist on the enemies of the motherland and the April revolution. The government urges all sons of the motherland, all heroic and courageous working people of the country to make constant and persistent efforts in order to lay bare and to hand over to the authorities our enemies whatever guise they use, to prevent them from casting a stain on the honour of the motherland.

The statement calls upon the people to lay bare foreign agents--underlings of Western centres, to defend the motherland, to destroy enemies and to enhance the patriotic spirit.

Support of Afghan People Evident

LD252110 Moscow TASS in English 2022 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Kabul, March 25, TASS--Thousands of residents of the Afghan capital--workers, peasants, employees, students, and representatives of all sections of population--gathered yesterday in one of the central squares of Kabul for a mass meeting. Many carried red flags and streamers with inscriptions saying "Down with external and internal enemies of the Afghan people!" "We shall defend the gains of the April revolution!" "Down with international imperialism which is conspiring against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan!"

Speakers--party workers, activists, people of various age and profession, unanimously supported the policy of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) and the revolutionary government and resolutely condemned attempts by counterrevolution to undermine the gains of the Afghan revolution. The intrigues of internal reaction which is relying on imperialist circles' support are doomed to failure, said M. Gousudding, vice chairman of one of the capital's district committees of the PDPA. The people of Afghanistan who have cast off the yoke of exploiters will not allow themselves to be again plunged into slavery and poverty. We are resolved to uphold the revolutionary gains.

The working people of Kabul, like all Afghan people, are wrathfully condemning the conspiracy by reactionaries from the "Moslem Brothers" grouping connected with foreign reaction and counterrevolutionary emigres, said J. Nozadi, vice chairman of another of the capital's district committees of the PDPA. All Afghan people, whatever their nationality, are ready to issue a resolute rebuff to the lackeys of imperialism including those who act against our country from abroad. We resolutely condemn slander and lies about the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, which are being spread by the propaganda media of the USA and Britain, particularly by the BBC.

The April revolution in Afghanistan is a success because it has been supported by the entire Afghan people, said mur Muhammad Vafakesh, editor in chief of the newspaper ANIS. Schemings and intrigues that originate in Britain, Pakistan, and which are supported by U.S. imperialism have no prospects. The Afghan people believe the people's government and are ready to uphold their independence.

Mass meetings, as is reported by the BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY, also took place in many cities and areas of the country's provinces. The participants in the meetings resolutely come out against reaction's attacks.

Afghan Religious Leader Statement

LD231734 Moscow TASS in English 1647 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Kabul, March 23, TASS--The Afghan Moslems wrathfully condemn pseudo-Moslems who are spreading slanderous propaganda against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, stated Moulava Said Abdul Manan, member of the Ulema--the head council of the country's religious leaders. The Afghan people actively supports the revolutionary changes in the country. The Moslems of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan resolutely and totally reject the provocative attempts from outside to incite religious and national strife in our country. We resolutely protest against the slanderous allegations about the "infringements" of the believers' rights by the revolutionary authorities. This is totally untrue: Afghanistan's revolutionary government deeply respects the religion and values of Islam, and the working Moslems and the entire Afghan people actively support the measures of the revolutionary government directed at curbing the criminal activity of the reaction.

SECOND INDIAN 'SPUTNIK' TO BE LAUNCHED

LD231750 Moscow TASS in English 1731 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 23, TASS--The Soviet side has been true to its obligations to India and is ready to launch the second Indian sputnik as soon as its flight model is finally ready, a TASS correspondent has been told by Nikolay Novikov, deputy chairman of the "Inter-Cosmos" Council under the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

A delegation of Soviet specialists today flies to Bangalore, India, for direct participation in trials of the sputnik's flight model. Autonomous comprehensive trials of the vehicle will be carried out, and its systems will be fully analyzed.

The second Indian sputnik, the scientist said, as just the first one, will be launched from the territory of the Soviet Union. The USSR will provide for the purpose a rocket-carrier and the blast-off complex. Indian specialists will also be given an opportunity to use the Medvezhie Ozyora ground station for obtaining information and controlling the sputnik in the first days of its flight. All this is done on a gratis basis.

The new Indian sputnik will differ from its predecessor both by the equipment in observation of the surface of the earth from outer space in the interests of India's national economy.

Scientists are cooperating on the basis of the agreement between the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and the Indian Space Exploration Organization, which was signed in Moscow in April 1975.

Nikolay Novikov emphasized that preparations for the launching of the Indian satellite are taking place in a businesslike and friendly atmosphere, characterized by full mutual understanding of both sides.

BHUTTO DEATH SENTENCE UPHELD

LD241418 Moscow World Service in English 1000 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The Supreme Court of Pakistan has upheld the death sentence on the former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. Today the court rejected a petition to review the verdict of the death sentence. Bhutto was sentenced to death last year on a charge of complicity with murder.

PAKISTANI PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES 17 NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

LD231056 Moscow TASS in English 0920 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Islamabad, March 23, TASS--President of Pakistan General Mohammad Ziaul Haq announced today that general elections would be held in the country. Speaking at a military parade in Rawalpindi, devoted to the national day--the Day of Pakistan, he said that the elections were planned to be held on November 17.

MORE ON OFFICIAL VISIT OF THAI PRIME MINISTER

Airport Arrival Statement

LD231145 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Mar 79 p 1 LD

[Excerpts] Gen Kriangsak Chamanan, prime minister of Thailand, arrived in Moscow 21 March on an official visit at the invitation of the Soviet Government. In a statement at the airport K. Chamanan thanked the government and people of the Soviet Union on behalf of the government and people of Thailand for the invitation to visit the USSR and expressed gratitude for the warm welcome.

This is the first time that a Thai prime minister has paid an official visit to the Soviet Union, K. Chamanan went on to say. This visit will make it possible to exchange views with the Soviet Union's leaders on many questions of mutual interest. I sincerely hope that this will help to strengthen the friendly relations and good mutual understanding between our two countries, as well as help to lay firm foundations for our further friendship.

Good relations have existed between our two countries for more than a century. They are now developing in many spheres, such as trade, sports, culture and tourism. I believe that opportunities exist for expanding and further developing Thai-Soviet relations.

The Thai people, the prime minister emphasized, follow with admiration the Soviet Union's achievements in national, economic, social and cultural building, as well as in other spheres.

21 March Dinner Speeches

LD231301 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Mar 79 p 4 LD

[TASS report: "In a Friendly Atmosphere"]

[Text] On 21 March the USSR Government held a dinner in the big Kremlin Palace in honor of Thai Premier Gen Kriangsak Chamanan. With the premier were the Thai statesmen accompanying him on the trip and S. Sathianthai, Thai ambassador to the USSR. On the Soviet side were Comrades A.N. Kosygin, A.A. Gromyko, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, USSR ministers, state committee chairmen and other officials. A.N. Kosygin, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, delivered a speech to the guests.

A.N. Kosygin's Speech

This is the first time we have received a Thai head of state on an official visit to our country, A.N. Kosygin said. This is an important event in the history of Soviet-Thai relations and it illustrates that the governments of the two countries are counting on reinforcing mutual contacts and finding ways to expand equal cooperation and perhaps to achieve greater mutual understanding and reinforce mutual trust. We hope, Mr Prime Minister, that your visit will promote this in full measure.

The ties between our countries began to form long ago. Over 100 years ago the ships Gaydamak and Novik from the Russian fleet first dropped anchor off Thailand's shores.

They came not with a view to attacking and seizing foreign lands or to imposing unequal treaties. Their intentions were peaceful. And it must be said that relations between our countries have never been overshadowed by conflicts. Russia gave support to Thailand in its struggle for independence.

And if the scale of our cooperation is still small, the reason is not the lack of opportunities or desire to cooperate but rather the fact that Southeast Asia and the countries of this region were for a long time subject to the influence of foreign imperialist forces.

A decisive breakthrough in the situation in this large region occurred as a result of the victory of the Indochina peoples in their struggle for freedom and independence. It seemed that not only for them but for all Southeast Asia a historical period of peaceful development was beginning; a period to overcome the grave consequences of colonial rule, a period of consolidation of independence and economic and social progress.

But the peoples' hopes were dashed by militarist China's armed invasion of Vietnam. The aggression against Vietnam elicited a response of deep pain in all countries of this region and throughout the world because it was a blow to the conscience of all peace-loving mankind and to its belief in the sacred principles of equal rights and sovereignty and respect for the peoples' right to peace and creation for the sake of a better future.

Today we pay tribute to the Vietnamese people and their heroic armed forces who have barred the path of great-power expansion and strengthened the faith of other peoples in the inexorable triumph of the cause of peace, justice and progress. We pay tribute to the solidarity of the peoples and their cohesion in the struggle for the total success of this great cause.

The peoples cannot come to terms with violence and tyranny, with outside interference in their internal affairs, with attempts to keep them away from the path of civilization. The successes of the liberation struggle of the peoples of Kampuchea and Iran, Afghanistan and Ethiopia and a number of other countries convincingly show the direction in which the development of world events is proceeding. "Only the enemies of progress," Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, the general secretary of our Communist Party's Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, has stressed, "are reluctant to see that these changes are growing on national soil. ...They are prepared to blame this on whoever and whatever they want--the socialist countries, detente, even religious conviction. But in reality, if some external forces do have to be blamed here, then it is imperialism and its accomplices."

The Soviet Union, A.N. Kosygin continued, is prepared to expand cooperation with Thailand in various spheres of activity, and this also applies fully to international affairs. We see a favorable basis for this in the coincidence of proximity of the positions of the Soviet Union and Thailand on a number of important foreign policy problems. This concerns above all the consolidation of detente, curbing the arms race, banning nuclear weapons tests, the nonuse of force in international relations and strengthening international security. The Soviet Union has assessed at their true worth the positive advances in Thailand's relations with other Southeast Asian countries and the Thai Government statements concerning its intention to promote the cause of peace and the development of cooperation and good-neighborly relations among the countries of this region.

We see opportunities for expanding cooperation with Thailand, and with other Asian countries, by pooling our efforts in the interests of consolidating peace on the basis of the principles of sovereign equality and the inviolability of borders, territorial integrity and political independence, and noninterference in the internal affairs of other states. We are always ready for a collective search for constructive measures facilitating progress toward this goal.

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV] which has taken many constructive steps in this direction in recent years--promoting in particular the establishment of Vietnamese-Thai relations--actively favors the development of peaceful friendly relations and good-neighborly cooperation among the Southeast Asian countries.

The Soviet Union displays understanding toward the idea advanced by the Southeast Asian countries for the creation of a zone of peace in this region. We welcome the statements by leaders of the states belonging to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations [ASEAN] that they are seeking the development of economic and cultural cooperation and that this association is not of a military nature. We wish the countries of this region success in their efforts to resume the activity of the Mekong Development Committee, which includes Thailand, Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea.

The possibility of harnessing the colossal energy of the Mekong in the interests of the peoples of these countries has been under study for almost three decades. The energy of this mighty river is the key to their industrial upsurge, the development of their agriculture and the improvement of the people's well-being. But the Mekong business has gone virtually no further than research. The main obstacle here have been the aggressive wars and the tenseness of the situation, and the interference of imperialist and hegemonist forces. Another serious obstacle is the lack of funds, which are being swallowed up by these same wars and by the arms race. Only on the path of peaceful development and broad, equitable cooperation will it be possible to make this great river serve people and the building of a new life throughout this region. The Mekong is a graphic example of the enormous potential which the peoples in our time possess and of the obstacles which must be removed from their path for this potential to become reality.

In conclusion A.N. Kosygin proposed a toast to the king of Thailand, to Prime Minister and Mrs Virath Chamanan and to the ministers and other Thai statesmen present, to a peaceful life and prosperity for the people of Thailand and to friendly cooperation between the Soviet Union and Thailand.

Then K. Chamanan delivered a speech.

K. Chamanan's Speech

I would like to take this opportunity, K. Chamanan said, to express our thanks for the warm, friendly reception given us and those accompanying us from the moment we arrived in your beautiful capital--the city of Moscow. I would also like to thank you for your speech of welcome, imbued with feelings of goodwill and friendship. I regard the honor bestowed on me as an expression of the sincere friendship in which the Soviet Government and people hold the Thai Government and people.

One of the main aims of my visit to the Soviet Union, apart from the fact that it is a reply to the invitation sent to me by the Soviet Government, is to take the opportunity to exchange opinions and consultations with you and other leaders of the Soviet Union on questions of mutual interest. The Thai Government pursues the policy of developing good relations with all countries seeking friendly relations with Thailand.

Since this is the first visit to the Soviet Union by a Thai prime minister, I sincerely hope it will promote the development and further strengthening of the relations between Thailand and the Soviet Union and the deepening of mutual understanding between our peoples.

Good relations have existed between our countries for over a century. Close friendly relations were maintained in the past between the Kingdom of Siam (now Thailand) and the Russian empire.

In 1897 the king of Siam, His Majesty Chulalongkorn, paid a state visit to your country and in 1898 the Thai and Russian governments established diplomatic relations and exchanged diplomatic representatives. Our kings also sent Thai princes and students to your country to further their education.

The good relations between our countries were temporarily disrupted as a result of the two world wars. Only in 1947 did the Thai Government and the Soviet Government establish normal diplomatic relations. Since then our relations have been developing steadily. In 1970 a trade agreement was signed between the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the USSR Government, and in 1971 our countries concluded an air communications agreement. These agreements have promoted the strengthening of contacts between our countries' peoples and promoted the expansion of economic and trade relations between us. These agreements thus serve as a firm basis for the development of good relations and effective cooperation between Thailand and the Soviet Union.

Thailand is situated in the heart of Southeast Asi , in a part of the world which over the past 10 years has undergone considerable and sometimes tempestuous changes. In some parts of our region the peoples have undergone severe trials and hardships. Therefore my country's government is trying to do everything possible to pursue a policy of peaceful coexistence. We sincerely want friendly relations and constructive cooperation with all countries, irrespective of how remote they are, and of any differences in our political, economic or social views. This is based on our invariable aim--to strive for peace, freedom and neutrality in Southeast Asia, which will insure the well-being of the people of Thailand and, likewise, of all peoples of our region.

When it took office in November 1977 my government regarded the above-mentioned policy as being of paramount importance. We have taken every possible step for the fullest implementation of this policy in order thus to contribute to insuring peace in our region. Here the Thai Government firmly adheres to the principles of peaceful coexistence. We profoundly hope that all Southeast Asian countries will also support these principles, to wit: Respect for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, nonaggression and noninterference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual advantage.

The Thai Government is seriously disturbed by the situation now prevailing in Indochina as a result of the military operations between neighboring countries whose territories are close or adjacent to Thailand's border. I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm that the Thai Government and people will adhere to their position of strict neutrality and will not allow themselves to be swayed toward any side in the present conflicts. The Thai Government wants all sides to adhere to the principles of peaceful coexistence, and particularly nonaggression and noninterference in each other's internal affairs. The Thai Government has no wish to see the conflict broaden, which would create a serious threat to the region as a whole. The Thai Government has repeatedly stated that it wants all disputes, wherever they arise, to be settled by peaceful means. For our part we will do everything possible to create conditions promoting peace and stability in Southeast Asia. We will seek to cooperate here with other countries and international organizations with a view to preventing the escalation or broadening of these conflicts.

As a member of ASEAN, which includes five countries--Indonesia, Malaysia, the Phillippines, Singapore and Thailand--we can say that the ASEAN countries' cooperation is a fitting example of truly regional cooperation for safeguarding peace and prosperity in Southeast Asia. ASEAN seeks the attainment of economic, technical and cultural goals to improve the well-being of its member countries and for the peaceful progress of the entire region. [paragraph continues]

ASEAN is not a military organization and it is good to note that ASEAN has already secured widespread international recognition as an effective and viable mechanism for promoting economic, cultural and technical cooperation not only among its member countries but also with other countries or groups of countries with any interests in our region. I am pleased to note that the Soviet Union has cordial relations with all ASEAN countries and welcomed the statements by the ASEAN countries' leaders that ASEAN's goal is to promote the economic growth and social well-being of the region's peoples.

The ASEAN countries realize that, besides cooperation in various spheres, other measures are also necessary for the attainment of lasting peace in this region: In particular it seems to us that one of the most feasible and attention-worthy goals is the transformation of Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality experiencing no outside interference. A declaration to this end was published by the ASEAN countries in Kuala Lumpur in 1971. I want to reaffirm that all the ASEAN countries are committed to the idea of the eventual realization of this concept, which in our opinion will be a positive contribution to the attainment of peace and stability in this region.

It gives me pleasure to note that bilateral relations between our countries have been developed in almost all spheres. As for trade relations, the Soviet Union is Thailand's largest trading partner in East Europe. The total volume of our trade is constantly growing. Initially Thailand had a surplus in trade with your country, but in recent years we have had a deficit. In any event I believe that our countries will find ways to develop and expand our joint efforts in the trade sphere. It should be noted that the relations between our countries in other spheres, such as cultural exchange, sports, the mass information media and literature, and also tourism, have been developing satisfactorily. There have been numerous exchange visits which have been an additional factor in reinforcing the good mutual understanding between our peoples.

The Thai Government directs all its efforts toward achieving a satisfactory level of well-being and prosperity for its people. To this end the Thai Government has urged all strata of the Thai people to pool their efforts to insure prosperity not only for the present but also for future generations. It is obvious now that in response to this appeal the Thai people are displaying full support for the government's efforts. To improve the living standard of our peasants, who comprise the most powerful force of Thai society, my government has proclaimed this year the "Year of the Peasant." We have earmarked considerable funds and provided specialists and technical facilities to implement the set tasks. In April general elections of the members of the House of Representatives will be held so that a new government may be formed to run the country. I can thus state that the Thai people are now united in their desire to develop their country and are fully and firmly determined to preserve their national character and their national institutions and traditional freedom.

I am deeply convinced that the USSR and the Kingdom of Thailand are united by their common desire for peace and the wish to strengthen the friendship and cooperation between our countries on the basis of equality and mutual advantage. I therefore sincerely hope that this visit to the Soviet Union will in some measure make a positive contribution to the friendly relations existing between our countries and insure their constant development, and will promote the achievement of lasting peace in Southeast Asia.

K. Chamanan proposed a toast to the good health of L.I. Brezhnev, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and A.N. Kosygin, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, to the prosperity and progress of the Soviet Union and the well-being of the Soviet peoples and to the friendship and close mutual relations between the Kingdom of Thailand and the USSR.

The speeches by A.N. Kosygin and K. Chamanan were listened to with attention and greeted with applause. The dinner passed in a friendly atmosphere.

Kriangsak Luncheon

LD231456 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

[Text] General Kriangsak Chamanan, prime minister of Thailand, today visited the Marshal Malinovskiy Armored Troop Academy.

The guest also gave a luncheon today in honor of Kosygin, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. Together with Aleskey Nikolayevich Kosygin, the luncheon was attended by Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko, USSR minister of foreign affairs; deputy chairmen of the USSR Council of Ministers; USSR ministers; chairmen of USSR state committees and other officials. During the luncheon Kriangsak Chamanan and Aleksey Nikolayevich Kosygin exchanged friendly toasts.

A press conference was also held by the prime minister of Thailand. Addressing Soviet and foreign journalists, he expressed profound satisfaction with the results of his visit and noted its fruitfulness. The distinguished guest stressed that his conversation with Leonid Ilich Brezhnev and his meetings and talks with Aleksey Nikolayevich Kosygin and other Soviet leaders had taken place in an atmosphere of exceptional mutual understanding, sincerity and frankness. We discussed a wide range of questions, he said, including questions connected with the further development and deepening of friendship and cooperation between our countries.

The role of the Soviet Union in Southeast Asia, noted Kriangsak Chamanan, comes down to preserving peace in that region. Thailand, like the other countries of the region, is seriously concerned with seeing that the conflict in Indochina does not spread. For this it is necessary for China to also strive for peace and negotiations.

Report on Press Conference

BK241007 Bangkok WORLD in English 24 Mar 79 p 1 BK

[By Yuwadi Thanyasiri in Moscow]

[Text] Prime Minister Kriangsak Chamanan told a press conference in Moscow yesterday at the end of his 3-day official visit that he would like to see Soviet Russia recognize ASEAN as a bloc and play the role of maintaining peace and stability in Southeast Asia. Much will depend on the sincerity of the Soviets, he added, enigmatically.

On the role of China, he said: "Like Russia, it should try to bring about peace. If the big powers are sincere about peace, we will have less concern. Thailand and our ASEAN partners are most concerned about the conflicts in Indochina. We are making every effort to promote peace because we don't want the conflicts to expand."

On the allegation that Thailand had allowed its offshore islands to be used as transit points for delivery of Chinese arms and ammunition to the Pol Pot forces in Cambodia, the prime minister said: "We have taken local and foreign correspondents to the spots mentioned but nothing was found. There are a lot of places on Cambodian territory through which arms and ammunition could be delivered. We remain neutral in the conflict and we hope for a peaceful solution."

He also said that whether the negotiations between the Chinese and the Vietnamese would succeed "depends on what develops in the talks."

Asked if the question of a regional military pact was raised by the Soviets, General Kriangsak said: "This was not brought up. If it had been raised, I would have to consult with my ASEAN partners because whatever we do we have to do together, especially with regard to security. I have to stress that ASEAN is set up for economic cooperation, not military."

Asked about development of Thai-Soviet relations, he said: "We will cooperate in trade and in the scientific and technological fields." He also reported that Thailand "has a plan to help countries less developed than ourselves, such as Laos, so that their people may have better living standards." He will discuss such assistance with Lao Prime Minister Kaysone Phomvihan when he visits Thailand next month.

He also reported that Thailand will assist Vietnam also. "We have sold 70,000 tons of rice to them," he said.

Concerning the proposed zone of peace, neutrality and freedom, General Kriangsak said, with our economic and technical cooperation, ASEAN can become strong. ASEAN has received recognition from other countries." He evaded a direct answer, presumably because the pro-Soviet Vietnamese have proposed a separate "zone of peace, genuine independence and neutrality."

Soviet TV Speech

LD232252 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Kriangsak Chamanan, Thailand's prime minister, who is in our country on an official visit, made a speech on Central Television today. He said: I am of the opinion that my visit to your country, made at the Soviet Government's invitation, is of great importance for Thailand.

I feel great pride and joy at being able to express here the good feelings of Thailand's people and government toward the Soviet Government and people. I have been deeply moved by the exceptionally warm welcome accorded me here. I had the opportunity to meet Soviet people and to familiarize myself with their way of life. Thailand and the Soviet Union have common goals, the main ones being our mutual desire to promote peace and detente between our countries and throughout the world. Both our states proceed from the premise that relations between countries can develop successfully, irrespective of their political and social systems. I am satisfied with the results of my meetings with President Leonid Ilich Brezhnev and Premier Aleksey Nikolayevich Kosygin. Everything that we discussed during our frank conversations will be of benefit to both our countries.

Kriangsak Chamanan noted that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations--ASEAN--of which Thailand is a member, strives to transform Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, security and neutrality and comes out in favor of peace the world over.

The prime minister of Thailand expressed sincere gratitude to the Soviet Government and people for the official invitation to visit the USSR. Meetings with Soviet leaders, he stated, will promote the development of better mutual understanding and further cooperation between our countries. I wish the Soviet people success and prosperity.

Report on Talks, Activities

LD231636 Moscow TASS in English 1550 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 23, TASS--The first stage of the stay of General Kriangsak Chamanan, the prime minister of Thailand, in the USSR is drawing to a close. This is the first official visit to the USSR by a head of government of Thailand. Tomorrow the Thai prime minister is to fly to Volgograd, a city in the centre of Russia, a thousand kilometres to the southeast of Moscow. The battle at the walls of that city cardinally changed the course of the Second World War.

The culmination of the visit, now in its third day, was the meeting of the distinguished Thai guest with General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Brezhnev. During the conversation, that passed in a friendly atmosphere, they discussed the state of Soviet-Thai relations and the prospects of their development. When international problems were studied, attention was given to the latest events in Southeast Asia.

Talks were conducted between Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Aleksey Kosygin, USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrey Gromyko and Prime Minister of Thailand General Kriangsak Chamanan.

[Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 22 March 1979 reports that the following also participated in the talks: On the Thai side: Interior Minister L. Naeomali, Agriculture and Cooperatives Minister P. Kannasut, Prime Minister's Office Minister S. Bunyakhup, Industry Minister K. Chatikawanit, Deputy Commerce Minister P. Amaranan, Armed Forces Commander in Chief Gen Soem Na Nakhoni, and Thai Ambassador to the USSR S. Sathianthai;

(On the Soviet side: N.S. Patolichev, USSR minister of foreign trade, S.A. Skachkov, chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, Marshal of the Soviet Union N.V. Ogarkov, chief of the Armed Forces General Staff and USSR first deputy defense minister, N.P. Firyubin, USSR deputy foreign minister, Yu.I. Kuznetsov, USSR ambassador to Thailand, and I.A. Rogachev, chief of a USSR Foreign Ministry Department.]

Noted during the constructive exchange of views on Soviet-Thai relations was the mutual intention to continue the strengthening of cooperation between the two countries.

When views were exchanged on international questions, attention was given to problems of ensuring peace, stability and security in Southeast Asia. The sides expressed conviction that it is necessary to spread the process of detente to all areas of the world and to impart an irreversible nature to this process.

During his stay in Moscow the distinguished guest laid a wreath to the Mausoleum of Lenin, the founder of the CPSU and the Soviet state.

The Thai prime minister visited the Moscow Soviet, the municipality of the Soviet capital, and the armour military academy.

The visit by the prime minister of Thailand to the USSR continues.

Departs for Leningrade

LD241806 Moscow TASS in English 1747 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 24, TASS--Prime minister of Thailand, General Kriangsak Chamanan, left Moscow for Leningrad today.

At the railway station, decorated with the flags of Thailand and the Soviet Union, he was seen off by Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR Aleksey Kosygin, Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation Mikhail Solomentsev and other officials. Among those at the railway station were staff members of the Embassy of Thailand in the USSR, heads of diplomatic missions of a number of countries, accredited in the USSR, representatives of Moscow's working people. The anthems of Thailand and the Soviet Union were played.

Aleksey Kosygin and Kriangsak Chamanan reviewed the guard of honour.

Moscow's streets, through which drove the motorcade accompanied by an escort of motorcyclists, were decorated with the flags of Thailand and the Soviet Union and welcoming streamers.

Bangkok Radio Report

BK240222 Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 24 Mar 79 BK

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Kriangsak Chamanan has arrived in Leningrad to continue his 1-week official visit to the Soviet Union.

The visiting Thai prime minister had earlier ended his talks with Soviet leaders on Thursday [22 March] after a vigorous restatement of his country's strict neutrality at conflicts in Southeast Asia. "The Thai Government and people will maintain their position of strict neutrality and will not allow themselves to be pushed toward one or the other side in the present conflict," he said at the dinner following his first round of talks with Soviet Premier Aleksey Kosygin.

Observers noted that his comment represented a clear rejection of any attempt to persuade Thailand to back Vietnam in the conflict with China or the new Vietnamese-backed Cambodian Government as against the Khmer Rouge forces of ousted Premier Pol Pot.

The prime minister's 6-day visit will end next Tuesday [27 March] when he will fly back to Bangkok from Leningrad.

Leningrad Tour

LD251424 Moscow TASS in English 1403 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Leningrad, March 25, TASS--Leningraders cordially welcomed Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, General Kriangsak Chamanan. He and his wife arrived this morning in Leningrad from Moscow. Kriangsak Chamanan made the visit to Leningrad, the Soviet Union's second biggest and second in importance city which has a population of over four million in the framework of the official visit to the USSR at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

At Leningrad's Moskovskiy railway terminal decked out with state flags of Thailand, the USSR and the Russian Federation, the head of Thailand's government was welcomed by Mayor of Leningrad Lev Zaikov and representatives of Leningrad people.

From the railway terminal, the minister rode to the residence assigned for him. The car was escorted by motorcyclists.

Sightseeing in Leningrad, the guest saw in the Victory Square the monument to Leningrad's defenders who upheld the town in the years of World War Two.

At the eternal fire, Kriangsak Chamanan paid the tribute to the memory of heroes and laid down flowers. The prime minister made the following entry in the distinguished visitors' book in the memorial's hall: "It is impossible to forget the huge sacrifices made by Leningraders for the sake of their motherland's freedom. Courage and heroism brought them to victory and their exploit will be remembered by many generations and will always be for them a brilliant example".

The prime minister and persons accompanying him then visited the Isaak Cathedral, one of the remarkable monuments of Russian architecture of the past century.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON PRC'S AGGRESSION AGAINST SRV

SRV Foreign Ministry Statement

LD231744 Moscow TASS in English 1726 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Hanoi, March 23, TASS--A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam said today [as received] that in the past few days the Chinese authorities did not fully withdraw their troops from the Vietnamese territory, but they concentrated numerous additional military contingents directly near the frontier and also captured a number of areas which belong to Vietnam.

By March 23, Chinese troops stayed in 30 points and areas of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Some of them are located deep in the Vietnamese territory.

The Chinese troops are still in the Lang Son, Cao Bang, Hoang Lien Son and Ha Tuyen provinces. In these areas Chinese troops dig trenches, make fortifications, erect durable military structures with a view to change the historically-established frontiers. At the same time the Chinese leaders profusely talk on "negotiations" in a bid to legalize the seizure of Vietnamese lands.

China's ruling circles, stressed the spokesman from the Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, should immediately, fully and unconditionally withdraw all their troops beyond the historically-established frontier which both sides agreed to respect. Only in this case Vietnamese-Chinese negotiations may open on March 29.

VNA Report of Continuing Aggression

LD251456 Moscow TASS in English 1158 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Hanoi, March 25, TASS--The VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY reports that China, far from withdrawing completely all troops from Vietnam, continues seizing new areas in the territory of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The Chinese aggressors now occupy more than 30 localities, some of them situated deep inside the Vietnamese territory. The aggressors build reinforcements to tighten their grip on these localities. Concentration of the Chinese troops along the Vietnamese border continues. Populated localities are still being shelled. The territory of the Mongkai porcelain plant in Quang Ninh Province was shelled, specifically, a few days ago.

The newspaper NHAN DAN points out that Peking makes attempts to provoke disturbances among the national minorities living in the northern provinces of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

According to a report of the VIETNAM NEW AGENCY, the road from Tam Lung to Dong Dang is actually studded with mines. Leaving the area, the aggressors placed mines everywhere: Along the road, on both sides of the road and even on heights. Sappers deactivated more than 700 mines already.

The Chinese invaders exploded a power station in Nhi Thanh. The terminal in Tam Lung was razed to the ground. All railway cars were taken into the Chinese territory. Some sections of the railway bed present a horrible view, consisting of heaps of iron.

MORE ON LAOS' PRESIDENT SOUPHANOUVONG VISIT TO CAMBODIA

Reception Addresses

LD231815 Moscow TASS in English 1700 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Phnom Penh, March 23, TASS--Life has shown that the Beijing reactionaries who carry out an expansionist, great-power and hegemonic policy, have suffered an inglorious defeat in Kampuchea, that their strategic attempt to use Kampuchea as a springboard for realisation of their expansionism in Southeast Asia, has also suffered a serious defeat. This has been stated by Heng Samrin, chairman of the People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea, speaking at a reception in honour of a Laotian delegation which stayed on a visit here.

The Kampuchean people, he said, resolutely denounces Beijing for its cynical interference into the internal affairs of Laos, which creates a serious threat to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Laotian People's Democratic Republic. The aim of this interference is aggression and the desire to annex Laos, to isolate Laos, Vietnam and Kampuchea from each other. China's reactionary authorities, which do not want to give up their designs, continue supplying arms and ammunition to the remains of the Pol Pot gangs in the hope to revive that political corpse, to restore the genocide regime which was overthrown by the Kampuchean people and denounced by the whole of mankind.

At one with the progressive mankind as a whole, Heng Samrin said, the Kampuchean people welcomes the great victory attained by the heroic Vietnamese people in the war against the aggression which was unleashed by the Chinese expansionists. The people of Kampuchea is fully determined to strengthen militant solidarity, friendship and cooperation in all spheres with the fraternal Vietnamese people, as it is said in the treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation between the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

President of Laos Souphanouvong has emphasized in his speech that great difficulties are being raised now by China's interference into Kampuchea's internal affairs, by China's assistance to the remains of the Pol Pot gangs, by its subversive actions. Speaking of solidarity between Laos, Kampuchea and Vietnam, Souphanouvong has said that now that there is a direct threat from China the peoples of the three countries of Indochina should still more strengthen cooperation in all spheres. Having suffered a defeat, the Chinese rulers announced the withdrawal of their aggressive troops from Vietnam. But they have not yet given up the attempt to capture and occupy Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea. The Laotian, Kampuchean and Vietnamese peoples should therefore remain vigilant.

The people of Laos, said Souphanouvong, supports the Kampuchean people's just struggle in defence of the gains of the revolution, against the subversive actions of the Chinese reactionaries and imperialists.

Joint Statement

LD241712 Moscow TASS in English 1612 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Phnom Penh, March 24, TASS--A delegation of the Laotian People's Democratic Republic, led by President of the Laotian People's Democratic Republic Souphanouvong, has ended its official friendly visit to the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

An exchange of opinions of a broad range of questions was held in the course of negotiations which were attended from the Kamphuchean side by a delegation headed by Chairman of the People's Revolutionary Council Heng Samrin. Upon the end of the negotiations the sides signed an agreement on economic, scientific-technical and cultural cooperation between the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Laotian People's Democratic Republic for a five year term.

In the joint Kampuchean-Laotian statement it is noted that having overthrown the dictatorial fascist Pol Pot-Ieng Sary Regime, the people of Kampuchea have become the real master of its future and started building a new life. The Kampuchean people's victory is at the same time a victory of other peoples of Southeast Asia and the whole world in the struggle for peace, independence, democracy and social progress.

The statement resolutely denounces the attempt of the Beijing reactionary authorities to undermine the successes of the revolution in Kampuchea, to prevent its people from overcoming the difficulties and rehabilitating the economy of the country, and also their efforts to give support and assistance to the remains of the Pol Pot gangs in a futile attempt to restore the genocide regime which was turned down by the Kampuchean people and wrathfully denounced by the whole of mankind. The leaders of Kampuchea and Laos, the statement runs, demand that Beijing should end any interference into Kampuchea's internal affairs.

Both sides resolutely denounced the designs of Beijing which has concentrated troops on the frontier with Laos, which sends into the territory of the Laotian People's Democratic Republic subversive elements in a bid to sow national strife. Any slander against Laos on the part of the Beijing reactionaries, who are trying to undermine friendship and solidarity between the peoples of Kampuchea, Laos and Vietnam, is turned down.

The statement warmly welcomes the brilliant victory of the heroic Vietnamese people who gave a rebuff to the criminal aggression of Chinese great-power expansionists and hegemonists against Vietnam. Both sides demand that the Beijing reactionary authorities should fully withdraw the Chinese troops from Vietnam's territory and give up attempts to change the historically-established frontier line between Vietnam and China, which both these countries have undertaken to respect.

Both sides unanimously agreed that solidarity of the peoples of Kampuchea, Laos and Vietnam, which is developing on the principles of Marxism-Leninism, proletarian internationalism, respect for each other's independence and sovereignty is an essential factor of these countries.

The statement expresses sincere gratitude to the Soviet Union, SRV, other socialist countries, the governments and the peoples striving for peace, for their tremendous and valuable support and assistance to the just cause of the Kampuchean and the Laotian peoples.

The joint statement also stresses that Kampuchea and Laos express their ardent desire to build and develop relations of friendship and mutilateral cooperation with the Kingdom of Thailand and other Southeast Asian countries on the basis of mutual respect for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and also non-interference into each other's internal affairs in the interests of the peoples of these countries, peace, stability and prosperity in Southeast Asia.

HUNGARY'S GASPAR INTERVIEWED ON TV COOPERATION AGREEMENT

LD232304 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

[Text] A delegation of the Hungarian National Council of Trade Unions is in our country at the invitation of the AUCCTU. During the stay of the delegation in Moscow an agreement on cooperation between the fraternal trade union organizations was signed.

Our correspondent asked Sandor Gaspar, member of the MSZMP Central Committee Politburo and general secretary of the Hungarian National Council of Trade Unions, to speak about the importance of the document which has been signed:

[Gaspar--begin recording in Hungarian, fading into Russian translation] Friendly links have existed for a long time between Soviet and Hungarian trade unions, Sandor Gaspar said. For over 30 years now we have been working together on the development of fraternal cooperation between the working people of the Soviet Union and socialist Hungary.

In this connection special importance is attached to the agreement just signed which, in my view, will still further enhance the role of fraternal trade unions and organizations in the further consolidation of Soviet-Hungarian friendship. The importance of this document also lies in the fact that its provisions set down new enhanced demands on our countries' trade unions in their joint work in implementing the comprehensive program for socialist economic integration.

Touching further upon the initiative of Soviet working people in joining in socialist competiton on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Hungarian Republic of Councils, Sandor Gaspar emphasized that this initiative is vivid evidence of the Soviet people's socialist internationalism. This initiative has encountered widespread approval and support among all working people of Hungary, who see it as a continuation of the glorious traditions of the Russian and Hungarian internationalists. [end recording]

[Moscow in Hungarian to Hungary at 2000 GMT on 23 March, also reporting on the Soviet-Hungarian trade union agreement, adds the following passage:

["In his statement to a TASS correspondent he described the agreement as an important historic document. This agreement promotes the further development and intensification of the fraternal links between the workers of our countries, as well as their cohesion in the struggle for peace and social progress. The new document states the full identity of our views on all topical questions of the international situation and the trade union world movement. We shall continue to struggle in the same ranks for peace, detente, disarmament, against the arms race and the threat of a new war."]

Departure for Home

LD252118 Moscow in Hungarian to Hungary 1800 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The National Trade Union Council [SZOT] delegation led by Sandor Gaspar, Politburo member and secretary general of SZOT, which had been visiting the Soviet Union at the invitation of AUCCTU, left Moscow for Hungary on 24 March.

The Hungarian guests were seen off at the airport by Aleksey Shibayev, chairman of AUCCTU, and AUCCTU secretaries, together with Matyas Szuros, Hungarian ambassador in Moscow. During its visit to the Soviet Union the SZOT delegation held talks with an AUCCTU delegation. The talks were held in an atmosphere of fraternal friendship and total mutual understanding. The sides briefed each other on topical issues of trade union (?activity) in the two countries and on results achieved in the building of socialism and communism. They discussed cooperation between Soviet and Hungarian trade unions and working people in recent years and (?mapped out) the paths for further developments in relations. The visit by the SZOT delegation and the talks that were held, together with the [word indistinct] agreement that was signed, convincingly illustrated the indissolubility of the ties that bind the trade unions of the two countries and the unshakeable friendship between the Soviet and Hungarian peoples. Before the delegation left for home, Comrade Sandor Gaspar gave a statement to our correspondent that will be heard in our program tomorrow at 1900.

GDR'S SCHUERER, TIKHONOV CONCLUDE COOPERATION TALKS

LD231215 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Mar 79 p 4 LD

[Text] TASS--The 24th session of the Intergovernmental Commission on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation between the USSR and the GDR completed its work in Moscow 21 March. The USSR delegation was headed by N.A. Tikhonov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and the GDR delegation by G. Schuerer, candidate member of the SED Central Committee Politburo and deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers.

The session examined a wide range of questions relating to the further comprehensive deepening of economic ties between the USSR and the GDR aimed at successfully resolving the tasks of economic and social development in the two countries set by the 25th CPSU Congress and the 9th SED Congress. Chief attention was devoted to the realization of the agreement between L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and E. Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, to draft a production specialization and cooperation program between the USSR and the GDR for the period up to 1990. It provides for the development of comprehensive cooperation in intensifying the national economy, accelerating scientific and technical progress and raising the work efficiency of industry and agriculture.

In light of the tasks set in production specialization and cooperation, a number of agreements were examined and signed at the session. Specifically, an intergovernmental agreement on the joint modernization of the Sachsenwerk enterprise in the GDR, which manufactures large electrical machines, and also agreements on improving production technology for important types of chemical industry output and creating certain progressive technological processes in mining production were signed.

Fulfillment of the agreements concluded earlier on cooperation in microelectronics and the creation of technological processes and equipment for the production of chemical and glass industry output was verified during the session, and a number of new directions for cooperation were agreed on.

The GDR delegation headed by G. Schuerer left for Berlin 21 March. It was seen off at the airport by N.A. Tikhonov and other officials. The sendoff party included H. Ott, GDR ambassador to the USSR.

NATO ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE ALLOWS U.S. TO DOMINATE

LD231049 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Mar 79 p 3 LD

[Part 3 of Maj Gen R. Simonyan article "The NATO War Machine": "Administration"]

[Text] Today we complete the publication of a series of informational articles on the North Atlantic bloc armed forces. The first article in the series was published in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on 23 January, and the second on 6 March.

The administration and leadership system of the NATO Allied Armed Forces makes it possible for the United States to subordinate to its own interests the military policy of other countries belonging to this militarist alliance and to virtually transform their armies and navies into an appendage of the Pentagon war machine.

It is known that within the NATO framework there are two supreme (strategic) commands--Europe and the Atlantic--the main command for the Channel zone and the Canada-United States Regional Planning Group.

SUPREME ALLIED COMMAND EUROPE occupies a central place in the overall system of the bloc's Allied Armed Forces. Its zone of influence includes the territories of the bloc's European countries (except Britain, France and Portugal) and the Mediterranean basin. Even in peacetime a major grouping of forces is at the disposal of this command. According to the foreign press it numbers about 1.2 million men, 66 division equivalents, up to 11,000 tanks and approximately 3,100 combat aircraft.

The post of supreme allied commander Europe has been occupied by American generals since its inception. There are two deputies--British and West German generals.

The headquarters of NATO Allied Forces Europe is located in Casteau (50 km southwest of the Belgain capital, Brussels). It is staffed by servicemen from 12 of the bloc's countries (not France, Luxembourg or Iceland), but it is still Americans who run the show here. In particular, the post of chief of staff is always held by an American general. His deputy for planning and operational questions is a Bundeswehr general.

The supreme commander and the staff of NATO Allied Forces Europe are given wide powers. In peacetime they organize the combat and operational training of troops and staff, elaborate operational plans for using the Allied Armed Forces, and also prepare recommendations for the Military Commitee on questions of equipping and supplying these forces. In wartime the supreme commander exercises leadership over the combat operations of the bloc's Allied Armed Forces in the European theater of war.

The supreme allied commander Europe oversees the main commands for the three European theaters of military operations:

--The Northern Europe Command, with headquarters at Kolsas (in the region of Oslo, Norway). A British general is usually appointed commander in chief;

--The Central Command, with headquarters in Brunssum (Netherlands). The commander in chief is a West German general;

--The southern Europe Command, with headquarters in Naples (Italy). An American general is appointed commander in chief.

The supreme commander also oversees the British Royal Air Force command on the mainland, whose headquarters is located in High Wycombe (Britain), and the bloc's mobile forces, consisting of mobile ground forces with headquarters in Seckenheim (FRG), and mobile air forces.

NATO SUPREME COMMAND ATLANTIC. The zone of this command includes the sea area of the northern Atlantic to the Tropic of Cancer and the territory of Portugal. The waters of the Channel and the British mainland do not come into this command zone.

The post of supreme allied commander Atlantic and all other leading posts in this command system belong to representatives of the U.S. Navy. An exception is the post of commander in chief of Allied Forces Eastern Atlantic, which is held by a British admiral (he is also NATO commander in chief Channel). The supreme allied commander Atlantic (headquarters in Norfolk, United States) oversees the main commands of the bloc's Allied Forces Western Atlantic (headquarters in Norfolk, United States), Eastern Atlantic (headquarters in Northwood, Britain), Iberian Atlantic (headquarters in Lisbon, Portugal), and NATO Submarine Command Atlantic, and also the commands of NATO Strike Fleet Atlantic and the NATO Strike Aircraft Carrier Formation and the Standing Naval Force in the Atlantic.

The supreme allied commander Atlantic fulfills approximately the same functions with respect to his zone as the supreme allied commander Europe. However, in peacetime he does not have any forces at his disposal except the permanent naval formation in the Atlantic, consisting of five to eight destroyers or frigates from various bloc countries. Other forces are transferred to the operational command of the supreme allied commander in the Atlantic only during joint exercises and in the event of an outbreak of war.

NATO ALLIED COMMAND CHANNEL. The command zone includes the Channel and the Pas de Calais. The command's main purpose is to guarantee sea communications in the zone in wartime. A British admiral is appointed commander in chief. He oversees the commander of NATO allied aircraft based locally [bazovaya aviatsiya] in the zone, the commanders of NATO Allied Naval Forces and allied aircraft based locally in the regions of Nore and Plymouth, and also the commander of allied naval forces in the Benelux region, (Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg).

The armed forces are transferred to the command of the commander in chief of this zone only during exercises and in the event of war. They are to be based on the naval forces of Britain, Belgium and the Netherlands. In peacetime a permanent formation of minesweeper forces (four-six ships from the navies of the above mentioned countries) is under his command.

THE UNITED STATES-CANADA REGIONAL PLANNING GROUP engages in the elaboration of plans for joint operations by these countries' armed forces on their territory. The group is stationed in Washington and its sessions are held alternately in the United States and Canada.

A ramified system of administration whose basic components are the leading organs and allied headquarters of the armed forces has thus been created within the framework of the military bloc. Under peacetime conditions large groupings of troops (forces) and armaments are transferred to these organs or are earmarked for transfer in the event of war.

Although the supreme allied commanders Europe and Atlantic are subordinate to the chairman of the bloc's Military Committee, they have the right to appeal directly to the chiefs of general staffs, defense ministers and heads of government of the countries belonging to the alliance. The United States makes frequent use of this rule to interfere in the strictly internal affairs of the West European countries.

Using its dominant position in NATO and in the bloc's Allied Armed Forces, on the basis of the so-called "No 101-1 operations plan, "Washington has imposed on the members of the alliance agreements granting the U.S. command the right to undertake repressive actions unilaterally if "internal disorders" break out in West Europe. As the New York TIMES has written, under these agreements "blacklists of people" liable to be arrested by the U.S. Military Police under emergency circumstances have already been compiled in the NATO countries.

To this we should add that through their own and NATO intelligence services the U.S. ruling circles have frequently resorted to direct plots against governments inconvenient to them, as was the case in Greece in 1967, for instance.

The creation of NATO has led to Europe's division into military groupings and to the emergence there of an atmosphere of dangerous antagonism and the complication of international relations. NATO's existence constantly complicates and delays the peaceful solution of many urgent international problems and hinders the development of cooperation among the peoples. As for the Soviet Union and the other socialist community countries, they have frequently confirmed their readiness to annul simultaneously the Warsaw Pact and NATO or--as a first step--to dissolve their military organizations. But these proposals have not met with a positive response among the ruling circles of the Western powers. Moreover, the NATO leadership is continuing to press ahead with militarist preparations, is building up the numerical strength of its armed forces, and is conducting an unrestrained arms race. Recently, in particular, the Pentagon and the NATO staffs have been persistently seeking the creation and deployment in West Europe of medium-range missiles with nuclear warheads aimed against the Soviet Union and the other Warsaw Pact countries.

Under these conditions the Soviet Union and the other socialist community countries are fully aware of the need for constant vigilance and the readiness to rebuff any intrigues the aggressive forces of imperialism.

PORTUGUESE WORKERS STRUGGLING AGAINST 'CAPITALIST RECOVERY'

LD242140 Moscow in Portuguese to Portugal 2100 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

[Yaroslav Khabarov commentary on workers' demonstrations in Portugal]

[Excerpts] According to eyewitnesses, last week's demonstrations were really impressive. More than 1.5 million people came out into the streets of the country's cities and villages. This was a convincing demonstration of the working people's decision to oppose the maneuvers and offensive of reaction against the rights and freedoms which the April 1974 revolution gave the Portuguese people. One of the demonstrators' slogans was "in defense of the agrarian reform." Among the demonstrators marching through the streets of Portuguese cities, shoulder-to-shoulder with the workers, employees of the nationalized firmes, housewives and young people, were farmworkers, members of cooperatives--those whom reactionary and rightwing forces have been attacking in the last few months.

It is well known both inside and outside Portugal that in the last 6 or 7 months--after the new leaders took over the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries--the situation in the agrarian reform zone took a sudden turn for the worse. The rightwing forces have unleashed a true offensive against the agrarian reform. The leftwing democratic press wrote with indignation against a considerable reduction--at times even a complete halt--of state credits to the collective production units and cooperatives by the refusal to aid in the purchasing of seeds and fertilizer.

Our Portuguese listeners also write bitterly about this.

The democratic press has stressed many times that the destruction of the collective production units and cooperatives of the Alentejo and Ribatejo provinces--in the agrarian reform zone--could lead to a sudden reduction of agricultural output in the country, increased unemployment and misery for thousands of farmworkers.

In this way, 10,000 farmworkers--as a consequence of the activities of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries--have been left without means of survival.

The tense situation in the agrarian reform zone has caused concern all over the country, and not only among the farmworkers. All over the country protests have been heard against the activities of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

As is known, in January the movement of national solidarty with the fighters for the agrarian reform was held. The situation in the agrarian reform zone was debated by the Council of Revolution. By a majority of votes, the Revolutionary Military Council adopted a resolution which attributed direct responsibility for the violation of the laws and Constitution in Alentejo to the leaders of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Portuguese democratic public opinion received with approval the resolution of the Revolutionary Council, which showed itself as a guarantee that the Constitution will be observed and that the economic and social gains of the 25 April revolution, including one of the largest, the agrarian reform, will be maintained.

Under pressure from public opinion and demands for the workers, the commanders of the police and gendarmerie decided to withdraw their forces from the agrarian reform zone and Ferreira do Amaral, secretary of state for agrarian reform, was forced to resign.

In this way the united actions of the workers bear fruit.

During the large demonstrations held last week, the workers of Portugal once again confirmed their steadfast decision to struggle for the gains of 25 April against the policy of capitalist recovery in the country.

GOVERNMENT FAILURE IN PORTUGAL A VICTORY FOR LEFTISTS

LD242317 Moscow in Portuguese to Portugal 1900 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The draft budget and economic plan for 1979 submitted by the Fourth Constitutional Government to the Assembly of the Republic were rejected by the Portuguese parliament after a 4-day debate. Here is a commentary by Igor Fesunenko, Moscow Radio correspondent in Lisbon: These draft laws were supported only by the deputies of the rightwing Social Democratic Centre Party and some Social Democrats.

The Socialist deputies voted against the draft economic plan and abstained on the budget. The Social Democratic group, which had previously supported Mota Pinto's government, split: More than 50 percent of its deputies were absent from the vote and most of the Popular Democrati - Social Democratic Party members present abstained on the government proposals, which is regarded by the Portuguese press as a desperate attempt by the party to dissociate itself from the government, which is now completely isolated.

The powerful protest movement against the reactionary policy of the government, which stands for the interests of the privileged classes and which launched a fierce offensive against the workers' social gains, is daily growing throughout the country. It influenced the course of the debate and the stand adopted by the deputies in the Assembly of the Republic. That is why the government's failure is considered in Portugal the failure of those who oppose the 25 April revolution and the failure of those who are seeking to sabotage the nationalizations and to stifle the agrarian reform and the democratic changes secured by the workers and the popular masses following the defeat of fascism.

The failure of Mota Pinto's government is a victory for the forces of the left which demand the government's immediate resignation and the formation of a democratic government respecting the people's will. It should be pointed out, however, that according to the Constitution, the Assembly of the Republic's rejection of two bills does not necessarily imply the government's resignation. Its fate will be decided early next week, when President Ramalho Eanes returns from Hungary, where he is on an official visit.

The president may either dismiss the government, reshuffle it or entrust the present government with the task of drawing up a new budget and economic plan to be debated and approved later by the Assembly of the Republic. Should the government resign--a possibility regarded as inevitable by most political observers--the president may announce early general elections, or, without resorting to elections, may appoint a new prime minister who will form a fifth constitutional government.

Democratic public opinion and the leftwing parties--including the Communist Party--can only see two possible solutions for this protracted crisis: the holding of early general elections or the formation of a government backed by the leftwing majority in parliament, reflecting the real correlation of political forces and respecting the Constitution and the main democratic gains of the Portuguese people.

TASS, REUTER AGREE ON COOPERATION, INFORMATION EXCHANGE

LD232204 Moscow TASS in English 2128 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 24, TASS--Gerald Long, managing director of REUTER, the British news agency, was in the Soviet Union between March 19 and 24 at the invitation of TASS, the Telegraph Agency of the Soviet Union.

A protocol was signed in Moscow by TASS and REUTER agencies on cooperation and exchange of information in the framework of an existing agreement between the two sides. The signing of the protocol was attended by the ambassador of Great Britain in the USSR Herbert Ben Curtis Keeble.

Gerald Long had talks with Victor Afanasyev, the editor-in-chief of the paper PRAVDA, and with members of the editorial board of the paper IZVESTIYA.

SOVIET REPORTAGE, COMMENT ON PROPOSED EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI TREATY

Mideast Treaty at Egypt's Expense

LD232130 Moscow World Service in English 1500 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] On Sunday, [as heard] Egypt and Israel are to sign the separate treaty deal. Here's a dispatch from our Cairo correspondent: [read by announcer]

The daily AL-AHRAM has published the draft Israeli-Egyptian treaty and the separate letter exchanged by the sides on the so-called autonomy of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The publication of the draft is effected by the disappointment expressed at a recent session of the parliamentary faction of the ruling party by several members of parliament. They said they were only being briefed on the contents of the document and its agenda but not shown the documents themselves.

The treaty fully coincides with the document the United States proposed and Israel (?proposed) in 1978. It contains the clauses encroaching on Egyptian national interests that President as-Sadat allegedly tried to change. The letter supplementing the treaty was aimed, according to Egyptian rulers, to express their viewpoint but it practically gives the Israeli interpretation of disputable issues.

The document on the so-called autonomy of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip gives a tougher version of the Camp David provisions. The measures they envisage, insignificant as they are--elections to bodies of so-called self-government--would be carried out only if the sides reached agreement after 1 year of talks. The document doesn't speak of any connection between granting autonomy to Palestinians and the Egyptian-Israeli separate treaty, though such a connection was allegedly reached at the recent talks.

All this shows that the demonstration of firmness by Cairo, so much spoken of over the past few months, is only a disguise and that the compromise during the Middle Eastern tour of President Carter were reached at the expense of Egypt and the interests of other Arab nations.

Separate Deal, U.S. Role

LD231810 Moscow TASS in English 1752 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Washington, March 23, TASS--According to an official White House announcement, the signing ceremony of the Egyptian-Israeli "treaty of peace" will be held in Washington on March 26. Taking part will be President James Carter, as well as Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat, who will arrive in the USA especially for the purpose. Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, already in Washington, held the first round of talks with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance on the so-called "memorandum of guarantees" which is to accompany the treaty.

A State Department spokesman revealed that along with the "memorandum of guarantees", the United States and Israel are to work out another document to guarantee oil deliveries to Israel.

The press voices concern because the Egyptian-Israeli treaty is obviously associated with the stepped-up military role of the U.S. in the Middle East. The BUSINESS WEEK magazine writes that for the first time since the end of the Vietnam war the U.S. is demonstrating readiness to run the real risk of a military conflict. The treaty, in the magazine's opinion, involves the possible involvement of American troops in a war between Israel and the Arabs in case such a war breaks out.

As to the "memorandum of guarantees" now being prepared, it will actually be "a military pact between the USA and Israel, which will put the beginning to a new American presence in the Middle East," underlines the French paper L'HUMANITE.

On the eve of the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli deal, Washington resorted to undisguised blackmail of those Arab countries which refuse to support it. The foreign affairs committee of the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress, now debating a bill on aid to foreign countries in the 1980 financial year, introduced amendments to it prohibiting such aid to Jordan and Syria. The law-givers are permitting the administration to resume such aid only after it submits proof that these two countries "act in the spirit of good will" in the Middle East, in other words, if they refrain from condemning a deal which betrays the interests of Arab countries and peoples.

Carter's Cairo TV Comments

LD142232 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[From the "Window on the Arab World" program presented by Aleksandr Timoshkin]

[Text] In a statement on Cairo television yesterday, President Carter once again explained the U.S. stand on the Palestinian issue. Before everything else, President Carter lavished praise on the disreputable plan for autonomous rule for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. At the same time, he noted that full realization of Palestinian aspirations to self-determination will depend on the willingness of Palestinians and all Arabs to take part in the talks to be held concerning autonomy after the signing of the separate agreement between Egypt and Israel.

As President Carter is aware of the fact that participation by the legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people in the separate talks is unrealistic, he immediately stated that As-Sadat, Begin and the Washington representatives can, as he says, achieve a great deal for the Palestinians even in the latter's absence.

One should cite a little of what the U.S. President had to say about the Palestinian issue. President Carter, just to be on the safe side, proposed that Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza, Palestinians who are residents of Egypt and Jordan, and even those Palestinians who are not living in Arab countries take part in the talks on the condition that they are those Palestinians acceptable to the parties attending the talks. It appears that what is meant by this is that such Palestinians must be those who are to the liking of the Israeli aggressors and their U.S. protectors and their Egyptian ally. But it is well known that the participants in the separate talks will not be able to find Palestinians anywhere prepared to betray the just cause of their tortured people in return for a few piasters.

[Moscow World Service in English at 2100 GMT on 23 March carries a commentary by Igor Dmitriyev which says: "It is not often that we hear concern for the rights and the interests of the Arab people of Palestine from U.S. presidents. Support for their cause is tantamount to political suicide in America. As a matter of fact, when in 1977 President Carter for the first and last time used in one of his speeches the words 'the legitimate rights of the Palestinians' there was an uproar on the part of the Zionist lobby in the U.S. Congress and Washington hurriedly restated its historical commitments to Israel, which (?treats) Palestinians as second-rate citizens."]

"Whenever the plight of the Palestinian people was raised by an international agency or organization, including various UN bodies, Washington was fully on the side of Israel. It angrily dismissed criticism of Israel as anti-Semitic. Washington has done nothing to dissuade its client from setting up settlements in the occupied Arab land. Thousands of Palestinians homes have been torn down by Israeli bulldozers while human rights champions in Washington watched in silence.

"What is behind this sudden outburst of sympathy and concern for the interests of the Palestinian people? Washington feels extremely uneasy about the determination of the Arab countries to oppose the separate Egyptian-Israeli deal which, among other things, ignores the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arabs. The United States wants to sell its idea of a Middle East settlement to the Arab countries at any cost and showing concern for the Palestinians is definitely meant to turn the tide of widespread opposition to the separate deal."]

Butrus Ghali's 'Astonishing' Statement

LD242225 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[From the "Window on the Arab World" program, presented by Aleksandr Timoshkin]

[Text] The Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, Butrus Ghali, made a statement at the People's Assembly which is quite astonishing. In his statement Butrus Ghali expressed great hope that the Soviet Union will agree to the Egyptian-Israeli treaty when it is presented at the UN Security Council. It seems that Cairo believes that the Soviet Union can abandon its principles stand toward the question of a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East. One cannot respond to this except with an exclamation mark.

The entire world knows that the Soviet Union, from the beginning of the Middle East crisis, has been fighting in all international forums and in all circumstances resolutely and firmly alongside the vast majority of Arabs for settling the crisis; this calls for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from all Arab territory occupied in 1967, without exception, and for the full restoration of the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to establish their independent state.

On the other hand, Cairo's AL-AKHBAR fabricated another contrary tale. It claimed that the Supreme Soviet had sent a very important message to the amir of Kuwait demanding, the paper alleges, that Kuwait launch a hostile campaign against Egypt if Cairo signs the separate treaty with Israel. Cairo propaganda is searching for Moscow's imaginary hand even in a situation in which a tumultuous wave of resentment and condemnation of the policy of capitulation of the Egyptian leadership is sweeping the entire Arab world.

Saudi, Jordanian Stands

LD242222 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[From the "Window on the Arab World" program presented by Aleksandr Timoshkin]

[Text] The New York TIMES has said that the U.S. State Deparament did not so strongly deny what King Husayn of Jordan said regarding the United States resorting to applying pressure to force Husayn to support the Egyptian-Israel agreement.

The U.S. State Department representative said that Brzezinski's delegation held constructive talks with King Husayn, free of any threat. Observers see the State Department's statement as an attempt on Washington's part to conceal its displeasure and confusion from the fact that Jordan and Saudi Arabia told Brzezinski that they will refuse to lend their support to the separate and capitulationist policy of the Egyptian president. The attitude of Saudi Arabia in particular had its effect on the U.S. administration. This Saudi stand was conveyed to Brzezinski in Riyadh. Their stand, briefly, is this: Saudi Arabia will adhere to collective decisions adopted at the Arab summit conference concerning the question of guaranteeing a lasting and just peace in the Middle East--a peace based on right, as Prince Fahd said in a statement to NEWSWEEK.

Shortcomings of Pact

LD241628 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1330 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Yevgeniy Osipovskiy]

[Text] News agencies report that President as-Sadat of Egypt left for Washington this morning where, as already reported, the separate treaty between Cairo and Tel Aviv will be signed in a ceremony on Monday. Israeli Prime Minister Begin is already in New York, from where he will fly to Washington on Monday. Our correspondent Yuriy Soltan reports:

[Soltan--begin recording] Gambling on gaining political capital on the eve [as heard] of another presidential election from the Israeli-Egyptian deal it drew up itself, the Washington administration is trying to give the ceremony as much pomp and festivity as possible. Protest demonstrations have been banned in the vicinity of the White House, although there will be some on that day in Washington. Nor are statements praising the President's peace-making short on claims that the treaty opens the process of a peace settlement in the Near East.

But in reality all this ballyhoo is meant to mask the dangerous nature of the deal. In essence, a military and political alliance is being formalized between Tel Aviv and Cairo to protect American interests in the Near East, especially as regards oil, and to combat the progressive Arab regimes and the Arabs' liberation movement.

Over and above the $3 billion that Israel and Egypt already receive from the United States annually, they will be paid more than $5 billion more to purchase military aircraft, missiles, tanks, submarines and other American arms. And at that the lion's share of those arms--and by far the more modern--will go to Israel. It is reported that Israel and the United States will sign what is called a memorandum of agreement, a variant on a joint defense treaty, under which Washington pledges to give Tel Aviv political and military assistance if the security of Israel is jeopardized. It is also planned to set up American military bases in the Sinai Peninsula and at the Israeli port of Haifa.

To convince the American public that such measures are necessary, official propaganda is harping on the energy crisis in the United States, which, it claims, cannot be solved without protection by force of American oil supplies from the Arab countries on American terms. But by no means everyone here is joining in the chorus of enraptured exclamations toward the administration. It is being said and written here that the separate treaty based on Israel's three "no's"--to the 1967 borders and ceasing occupation of seized Arab lands, to an independent state of Palestine, and to the liberation of the Arab part of Jerusalem--will create a dangerous tension in the Near East and lead internationally to a further loss of trust in Washington, which has broken the pledges the United States assumed toward other states as regards the means of achieving a genuinely just settlement to the Near East problem. [end recording]

Arab Reaction to Treaty

LD242240 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1745 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[From the "International Diary" program, presented by Vadim Volkov]

[Text] The ceremony for the signing of the so-called Egyptian-Israel peace treaty is to be held in Washington on 26 March. It will be attended by U.S. President Carter and by Israeli Prime Minister Begin and Egyptian President as-Sadat, who are going to the United States especially for the purpose. What is the reaction in the Arab world to the forthcoming conclusion of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty? We have asked Leonid Rassadin, our correspondent in Beirut, to reply:

[Rassadin] Never before, at least in recent years, have Arabs been so unanimous in their assessment of the present Egyptian-Israeli collusion. Practically all Arab states, irrespective of [political] system, are dissociating themselves from this separate deal, worked out under U.S. aegis. At the present time, the growing isolation of the regime of As-Sadat, the Egyptian president, who has entered upon the road of betrayal of the fundamental interests of the Arab nation, is becoming increasingly evident. Even the so-called moderate Arab countries, in first place Saudi Arabia, have expressed their negative attitude to the treaty.

[Volkov] How can one explain the wave of indignation in the Arab world over the signing scheduled for Monday of the separate treaty between Egypt and Israel?

[Rassadin] It can first and foremost be explained by the very content of the bilateral agreements, which have nothing in common with the restoration of justice and the attainment of an all-embracing settlement in the Near East region. On the contrary, the Egyptian-Israeli deal merely takes the Near East further away from the establishment of calm and peace. The essence of the deal was perhaps expressed most frankly by none other than Begin, the Israeli prime minister, who proclaimed in the Knesset the three no's of the Zionists: No, to withdrawal of Israeli troops to the lines of June 1967; no, to restitution to the Arabs of the occupied old part of Jerusalem; no, to a Palestinian state. In other words, the Tel Aviv rulers have no intention of withdrawing their troops from the Arab lands seized in 1967, including from the Eastern sector of Jerusalem.

[Volkov] But do the Arabs intend to take any countermeasures in connection with the conclusion of the Egyptian-Arab deal?

[Rassadin] No one here has any doubt that steps will be taken. In particular, there is Iraq's proposal, in accordance with the decisions of the latest all-Arab summit meeting, to call another conference of Arab foreign and economic ministers in Baghdad in the near future. The whole complex of problems which the Arabs now face in connection with Cairo's traitorous position will be examined at the conference.

Zorin on Peace Settlement

LD250640 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[Valentin Zorin commentary]

[Text] What I'm going to dwell on now will certainly strike a note of discord in Washington. The general atmosphere there now is that of jubilation over the forthcoming signing of the agreement between Israel and Egypt.

Some of my listeners may take my remarks as mere grumbling of a third party which has no part in the feast. In any case, this is how the U.S. media described the Soviet position in this matter. But let me say right from the start that this description has little in common with the facts. The Soviet stand is prompted not by any hurt feelings but by a very sober assessment of the situation as it now exists. We in Moscow take a negative view of an agreement which is praised to the skies as a crowning achievement of American diplomacy, chiefly because we feel that this agreement does not solve anything.

Now let me try and present my argument to this case. If one regards the whole thing from the point of view of short-term or tactical U.S. foreign policy interests, and also from the point of view of personal prestige of the American President, then indeed the U.S. media and the White House officials have grounds for optimism. The President indeed has been able to accomplish a complicated and difficult diplomatic task. U.S. foreign policy has been able to break the united front of the Arab states, which oppose Israeli aggression, and deprive this front of its central link, Egypt. By taking advantage of As-Sadat's betrayal of the Arab cause, the United States has secured a chance to increase its military presence in that part of the world. If one adds to that that Washington has managed to arrange these things behind the back of the Soviet Union, then indeed there are quite enough reasons for a celebration in the U.S. capital now.

This view of the situation, however, can only be taken by persons who do not want or simply can not make a serious analysis of the situation and who seem to be incapable of looking into the near future. What, indeed, is the main element of this whole problem? The really important thing is that the crisis which has developed in the Middle East over the past few years has turned into a major source of war danger. It can spark off at practically any time a situation which may be very dangerous for world peace. So the question really is: Is that threat removed by the Egyptian-Israeli agreement which has been accomplished with the participation, under the guidance and also under the pressure of the United States? The obvious answer is that the agreement creates just a semblance of settlement without really settling anything. What is more, a real settlement has become even more remote because of the growing confrontation between Israel on the one hand--which is backed by the United States and which has now been joined by Egypt--and the rest of the Arab world on the other. Thus instead of a settlement of the Middle East crisis we can only expect its escalation.

But is this really in line with the solid long-term interests of the United States? Would it be against long-term American interests to have genuine stability in the Middle East, to find a real peace formula which would not just strengthen U.S. positions there over a period of time but would rule out chances of an explosion like the one in Iran? My mention of Iran is not accidental. Quite recently people in Washington were quite content with the situation there and with the role of that country in U.S. military and political strategy. If Washington's policy makers had been prepared to look a little beyond some temporary advantages, the United States could probably anticipate the blow which had been dealt to it by the fall of the shah. The fact that Washington officials always give priority to short(?lived) advantages instead of seeking really fundamental solutions to problems has time and again turned into major political setbacks, for the United States that is.

People who are now in raptures over the forthcoming signing of the Egyptian-Israeli deal would do well to stop and think about it now. All realistic and farsighted politicians draw appropriate conclusions from the stand which has been taken on the Egyptian-Israeli deal by most Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Kuwait. The fact that the authors of the U.S. shuttle diplomacy have managed to secure the services of Anwar as-Sadat due to various reasons, including some circumstances beyond their control, does not accept the American-Israeli plan of a Middle East settlement and the Arab world will not accept this plan, because irrespective of any political likes or dislikes and regardless of any personal relations between leaders, the basic principles of the proposed settlement are contrary to the vested interests of the Arabs.

The forthcoming Washington ceremony, which is being extolled to the sky as a triumph of American diplomacy, sows the wind which will certainly grow into a whirlwind. This will be a bitter harvest to reap for the American policy makers.

At his last press conference, American Secretary of State Cyrus Vance had to admit that the United States will face a difficult time following the signing of the treaty. He said this difficult time will not be long and the future difficulties will be mainly due to the Arab stand. Some of these difficulties have already begun even before the signing of the agreement, and as for expecting that the Arabs will finally have to accept the solution imposed on them, this is mere wishful thinking and an illusion which can have dangerous consequences for U.S. policy.

There can be no genuine Middle East settlement without taking into account the interests of all the parties concerned and without the participation of all these parties, including the Soviet Union. I think hardly anyone can expect a Middle East settlement without the participation of the United States. The Middle East is far too important in the general context of international politics and economically. So how can anyone think that these problems can be resolved excluding the Soviet Union, behind its back and contrary to its interests? No lasting settlement can be achieved in this way and it was only recently that Washington officials fully admitted this fact. This is proved by the American-Soviet declaration which was signed by the foreign ministers of the two countries in the fall of 1977. Since then there have been no basic changes in the situation. There have only been changes in the estimates of some Washington leaders. These estimates, however, are out of touch with reality. Some people even suggest that the agreement should be submitted to the Geneva conference for its approval, which will make it into an international law. But the Geneva conference on the Middle East is a body designed to consider all aspects of the situation and seek solutions in the interests of all the parties concerned. It is not its task to rubberstamp any separate deals.

Washington is in a jubilant mood. I for one think there is going to be a dramatic change in that mood in only a few months' time. What do nations expect? It is not just the semblance of a Middle East settlement but the real thing. This is what the Arabs want and this is what the Soviet Union also wants. This would also be in the interests of Israel and the United States. What we see now can be compared to prescribing some cough syrup to a person who is dangerously ill, so, emotions aside, there is really no reason to say that what we observe now is an unprecedented triumph of United States diplomacy. I personally think one does not have to wait too long to see the practical results of this triumph.

Israeli Communist Party Resolution

LD232056 Moscow TASS in English 1603 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Rome, March 23, TASS--The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel is expressing its solidarity with the struggle of the Arab people of Palestine against the Israeli-Egyptian conspiracy the aim of which is to conclude a separate "peace" treaty.

The resolution adopted by the plenary meeting of the party's Central Committee says that the vigorous wave of protests, demonstrations and strikes in the occupied Western Bank of the Jordan and in Gaza Sector is indicative of the Arab population's determination to put an end to occupation and oppression on the part of Israel and to achieve the establishment of a genuinely all-embracing, just and lasting peace in the Middle East. These events vividly confirm the unflinching will of the Arab people of Palestine to struggle for their right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state.

The firing on demonstrations of Arab schoolchildren and students, the outrages on children, women and old men of the occupied Western Bank and on all those who express their aspiration for freedom and peace are a shame to Israel, the resolution emphasizes. All those barbarous actions reveal in all obviousness the essence of the plan for an "autonomy" of the Palestinian Arabs, and the true goals of the policy of the reactionary bloc Likud headed by Menahem Begin.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel, the resolution points out, is sharply condemning the Israeli authorities' inhuman actions and is calling on all peace forces, the progressive public and all honest people of Israel to raise the voice of protest against the terror in the occupied Arab territories.

Egyptian Protests of 'Fake Peace'

LD232132 Moscow TASS in English 1945 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Cairo, March 23, TASS--Closing his eyes to the extremist pronouncements by the Israeli Premier Begin in the Knesset, President as-Sadat has qualified as a "great decision" the approval of the draft treaty by the Israeli legislative organ. Nevertheless, as reported by Cairo television, As-Sadat was compelled to admit that even after the signing of this document many problems would yet have to be solved, including the problem of occupied Eastern Jerusalem.

Discussion of the draft treaty in the commissions for inter-Arab problems and foreign affairs of the Egyptian People's Assembly actually turned into an exposure of the Egyptian leadership's capitulatory policy. Independent deputy 'Abd al-Munim Husayn said, addressing the representatives of the government: "Why don't you declare openly that you have failed to achieve the implementation of the legitimate aspirations of the Arab people of Palestine? Eastern Jerusalem is not even mentioned in the treaty. Why don't you admit what the separate solution is in reality?" Husayn stressed that the draft treaty was not, as the government claims, a step towards a comprehensive Mideast settlement. "After it is signed, Egypt will remain isolated once and for all from the other Arab states," he noted.

Particular indignation of several members of the commissions was evoked by the attempts of the representatives of the government to make the fulfillment of the articles of the treaty dependent on the "good will" of Israel.

"We should not even mention 'good will' when the text of the treaty in itself constitutes a catastrophe for Egypt," it was stated by 'Adil 'Id an independent deputy. Deputy Abu Isma'il characterised the treaty as a "document of disgrace and capitulation."

Deputy Khalid Muhyi ad-Din, leader of the National-Progressive (left) Party of Egypt, said: "We have denounced As-Sadat's 'peace initiative'. We have denounced the 'frameworks of peace' agreed upon at Camp David. And we, naturally, denounce the treaty between Egypt and Israel." Egypt, according to Khalid Muhyi ad-Din, is paying a "huge price" for a fake peace. The opposition deputies stressed particularly that Egypt's withdrawal from the all-Arab front was a betrayal of the cause of Syria and the Palestinians.

Attempts to Secure African Support

LD232220 Moscow in English to Africa 1630 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

[From the "Africa As We See It" program with Aleksey Grigoriyev commentary]

[Text] Our observer Aleksey Grigoriyev takes a look at Egypt and who it sides with in Africa:

The Egyptian diplomats have recently been making desperate efforts to smooth the negative reaction of the world public caused by the forthcoming signing of the separate treaty with Israel. They are also worried about the attitude of the African countries towards this deal. This is borne out by the recent trips made to some countries of West and East Africa by the vice president of Egypt, Mubarak, and President as-Sadat's aide Salim.

Back in 1972 and 1973, the Egyptian diplomats were telling the African countries about the just cause of the Arabs and urging the countries of the continent to break off relations with Israel. Today, 6 years later, when the main Arab problems have practically remained unsolved, the picture is absolutely different. Egypt is trying to secure the support of the so-called moderate African countries and prompt them to recognize its policy of capitulation towards Israel.

It is not accidental that the Kenyan newspaper WEEKLY REVIEW wrote that Africa is now made to choose not between Israel and the Arabs but between As-Sadat's conducting peace talks with Tel Aviv and those Arab countries that are against the separatists.

When sending its envoys to African countries, the Egyptian leadership gave them some rather doubtful instructions and those included attacks on the nonalined movement, promises of military aid and outright anti-Sovietism and anticommunism. About the same time, the Cairo newspaper AL-AKHBAR published malicious fabrications which were picked up by the most reactionary circles in the West. The paper claimed that the Soviet Union was preparing a plot against West Africa. The signal for carrying it out was to be student unrest in the Central African Empire and that, as everybody knows, was a purely internal affair of the country.

That absolutely groundless demagogy of the Egyptian press was of course meant for those to whom friendship between the Soviet Union and the African countries is too hard to swallow. It is easy to see behind all that whose interests the present policy of the Egyptian leadership serves. The imperialist reactionaries are now keeping Egypt and its economy under their influence and seek to use the country to promote their objectives on the African Continent.

Sharon Statement on New Settlements

LD241242 Moscow TASS in English 0720 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Washington, March 24, TASS--Tel Aviv is planning to set up a new network of militarized settlements in the Arab territories occupied in 1967, according to Ariel Sharon, Israeli minister of agriculture. Speaking over the Israeli radio, he said the settlements will be constructed in the Western Bank of the Jordan, in Gaza Sector and Golan Heights shortly after the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli "peace-treaty". According to a report by the AP news agency from Jerusalem, Israeli Prime Minister Begin gave a secret promise to his partners for the government coalition Likud to "hasten" a further development of the occupied territories by Israel.

GROMYKO ARRIVES IN SYRIA FOR BRIEF, FRIENDLY VISIT

Departure for Syria

LD240758 Moscow TASS in English 0747 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 24, TASS--Andrey Gromyko, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, left for Damascus today for a brief friendly visit at the invitation of the leadership of the Syrian Arab Republic.

At the airport Andrey Gromyko was seen off by Arvid Pelshe, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, Boris Ponomarev, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU CC, secretary of the CPSU CC, and by other officials.

Among the send-off party was Jabr al-Kafri, the ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic to the Soviet Union.

Arrival in Damascus

LD241231 Moscow TASS in English 1226 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Damascus, March 24, TASS--Andrey Gromyko, member of the Politidal Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, foreign minister of the USSR, came here today for a brief friendly visit at the invitation of the leadership of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Gromyko, Al-Asad Meeting

LD241837 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1810 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Damascus--Andrey Gromyko, USSR foreign minister, who has arrived here on a brief, friendly visit, met Hafiz al-Asad, general secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Andrey Gromyko conveyed to Hafiz al-Asad greetings and good wishes from Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

During the detailed [obstoyatelnyy], talk, which passed in an atmosphere of trust and full mutual understanding, there took place a detailed exchange of opinions concerning the current situation in the Near East.

The unity of views concerning the struggle for a just and lasting peace in the region has been affirmed. The sides have decisively condemned the separate agreement between Israel and Egypt, worked out with the direct participation of the United States.

Andrey Gromyko stated that the Soviet Union firmly stood on the side of the Arab peoples in their just struggle to liquidate the consequences of the Israeli aggression, against attempts at imperialist diktat and imposing capitulationist deals upon Arabs.

Hafiz al-Asad expressed a deep gratitude to the Soviet Union for its invariable support of the just cause of the Arabs and emphasized the Syrian side's resolve to continue to strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

24 March Meeting with Al-Asad

LD251356 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1340 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Damascus--A second meeting between Andrey Gromyko and Hafiz al-Asad, general secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic, took place here today.

An exchange of opinions on questions involving the Near East situation was continued during the talk, which took place in an atmosphere of full mutual understanding.

Questions of Soviet-Syrian bilateral cooperation of mutual interest were also discussed.

Third Conversation

LD260900 Moscow TASS in English 0851 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Damascus, March 26, TASS--Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee USSR Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko and President of the Syrian Arab Republic Hafiz al-Asad had their third conversation here.

During the conversation they continued discussing the Middle East situation and questions of Soviet-Syrian cooperation. The conversation passed in the spirit of complete mutual understanding.

Hafiz al-Asad gave a luncheon in honour of Andrey Gromyko. Present at the luncheon were Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Syrian Arab Republic Jamil Shayya, State Minister for Foreign Affairs 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi, USSR first Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Korniyenko.

Talks With Communist Party Leaders

LD251641 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1530 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Comrade Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of foreign affairs, met representatives of the leadership of the Syrian Communist Party in Damascus today. The Syrian communist leaders were Bakdash, secretary general of the party's Central Committee; and Ni'mih, As-Siba'i and Yusuf, members of the Central Committee Politburo. The conversation passed in a comradely atmosphere and in a spirit of cordiality and mutual understanding characteristic of relations between the CPSU and the Syrian Communist Party.

Gromyko, 'Arafat Meeting

LD251645 Moscow TASS in English 1632 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Damascus, March 25, TASS--During his brief friendly visit to the Syrian Arab Republic Andrey Gromyko, minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, received Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestinie Liberation Organization, who is now in Damascus.

Andrey Gromyko on behalf of the Soviet leadership again reaffirmed the invariability of the principled stand of the Soviet Union in matters of a Middle East settlement and specially emphasized the justness of the demands and legitimacy of the rights of the Arab people of Palestine including the right to establish a national state of their own. A separate Egyptian-Israeli treaty which is to be signed and which has been worked out with a direct participation and under a pressure of the United States of America is imbued with hostility with regard to the rights and interests of the Arab people of Palestine.

Yasir 'Arafat expressed a deep gratitude to the Soviet Union for its invariable and all-round support for the just cause of the Arabs and for the struggle of the Arab people of Palestine for restoration of their legitimate rights.

Departure for Home

LD260904 Moscow TASS in English 0856 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Damascus, March 26, TASS--Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko left today for home after concluding a short visit in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Arrival in Moscow

LD26134 Moscow TASS in English 1310 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 26, TASS--Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko today returned to Moscow. He was staying in the Syrian Arab Republic on a short friendly visit.

TASS REPORTS ON SYRIAN OIL INDUSTRY, SOVIET ASSISTANCE

LD242052 Moscow TASS in English 1917 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

["Beneficial Cooperation"--TASS headline]

[Text] Damascus, March 24, TASS--Syria's oil industry is successfully developing. With the Soviet Union's assistance it turned into the leading, highly profitable branch of the country's economy, accounting for more than 12 percent of the national income.

Design work, drilling of producing and test wells, exploitation of oil fields are continuing in accordance with the program of development of the oil extracting industry, elaborated by Soviet scientific-research institutions. The volume of drilling operations done with the assistance of Soviet specialists amounted to a total of about 1,300 kilometers; about 7 million tons of oil were extracted.

The Soviet Union gives Syria assistance also in the training of cadres of oilmen who are now building most of the projects.

The oil extracting industry is assigned a major place in the 4th Five-Year Plan of economic development of the country for 1976-80. Ten new oil deposits were discovered in three years of the current five year period. Two of them--Gbeibe and Tishrin--have already been put into operation. Thanks to the assistance of Soviet specialists, the oil extraction plan for the first three years was fulfilled by 100.7 percent and the drilling plan by 105.4 per cent.

The oil refining industry is also developing at a rapid pace. This industry's main enterprise is that in Homs. As was stated in an interview to the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH by Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Wealth of the Syrian Arab Republic 'Isa Darwish, by 1985 the country will start exporting oil products. The development of the fuel-and-energy basis of Syria, he stressed, will help strengthen the economy--the mainstay of our staunchness in the face of the conspiracy of imperialism, Zionism and reaction.

COMMENTS, REPORTAGE ON DEVELOPING SITUATION IN IRAN

'Subversives' Complicate Scene

LD231219 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Mar 79 p 5 LD

[Correspondent A. Filippov dispatch: "Onslaughts of Reaction Rebuffed"]

[Text] Tehran, 21 March--The celebration of the Iranian new year in the country has been darkened by provocative attacks organized in Iran by the reactionary underground. Last night subversive elements ambushed patrols guarding streets, industrial projects and government institutions. Former agents of the shah's SAVAK security service, which still maintains illegal ties with the U.S. CIA, have organized antigovernment actions in other cities as well.

Relying on the revolutionary committees created at local level, the authorities have curbed the reactionary forces' provocations.

The Iranian press links the intensification of subversive activity by enemies of the new regime with a desire to complicate the political situation in the country on the threshold of the referendum on the question of the future state structure.

Participants at meetings held at oil wells and refineries have stated that in the forthcoming referendum they will vote for the formation of an Islamic republic in Iran. They condemned American interference in the country's internal affairs.

Dangers of Disunity

LD232344 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1100 GMT 23 March 79 LD

[Unattributed commentary: "The Unity of the Democratic Forces Is the Key to the Success of the Iranian Revolution]

[Text] Dear listeners: We are witnessing the first important efforts of the Iranian revolution. The reconstruction of all the administrative organs of the country is being continued and offices and factories are beingcleansed of those who brought ill repute upon themselves by means of giving or accepting bribes or who were guilty of embezzlement, and government offices are being cleansed of those who supported the shah.

But as AYANDEGAN writes, the Iranian revolution has by no means come to full fruition. The official spokesman of the Provisional Government of the Islamic revolution of Iran has recently confirmed this, stating that the supporters of the defunct regime of the shah, notwithstanding their defeat, have not yet surrendered and are plotting against the revolution.

According to the information provided by the Kuwaiti newspapers, including the weekly AL-HADAF, a large number of the imperialist and Israeli agents who have remained in Iran are not resting and have not stopped their activities, but are earnestly active in secret. These elements have even penetrated the ranks of the democratic forces and are trying to cause disunity among them and increase the differences of opinion which exist among them. ASH-SHA'AB, printed in Beirut, was written: The U.S. spy agency drafted a plan of action against the Provisional Government of the Islamic Iranian revolution so that later it will be able to accuse the progressive forces in the country of opposition to the changes which are taking place there. Of course, it is not by chance that this time imperialists, Zionists and reactionary forces are concentrating all their efforts in order to achieve this aim: to sow the seeds of disunity and conflict by any means possible among the members of parties and the different democratic institutions in Iran.

The enemies of the Iranian revolution are, in fact, trying to create the necessary conditions for the decadent imperialist principle of "divide and rule." History of a number of such revolutions in Asia, Africa and Latin American is clear evidence of the fact that the central U.S. spy agency, the CIA, at times of disunity and individual actions by the anti-imperialist and democratic forces in a country, brings to power a group of overthrown dictators. For example, this very separation and disunity among the patriotic and democratic forces in Ghana, an African country, in the not too distant past, provided the necessary conditions for a coup d'etat engineered by the CIA.

Therefore nowadays, more than ever, attention should be paid to the call of progressive circles for the unification of all the democratic forces in their earnest and sustained fight against imperialism and Zionism, for the eradication of the pro-shah elements, for the sake of fundamental social changes and for the pursuit of policies of avoiding conflicts with other countries and observing principles of good neighborly relations.

The experience of the revolution in Ethiopia and revolutionary changes in Algeria, Syria and some other Asian and African countries shows that imperialism and counter-revolutionary forces have been completely defeated when confronted with increasing unity of all democratic forces. For example, workers, farmers, unions and youth organizations and other large productive organizations play a major role in the national liberation movement in Algeria. All the democratic parties and institutions in Syria, notwithstanding their doctrinal, political and philosophical differences, are members of the progressive and patriotic front of that country. They have become united in their general program of fighting against imperialism and their resolute struggle against Zionism and against local reaction, and they place the benefits of this unity above all the differences which arise from doctrinal issues. In fact, the unity of anti-imperialist and democratic forces in their fight against internal and external reaction is the key to the success of the revolution of the Iranian people. The strengthening of the foundations of this unity will insure the successful progress of your country on the path of economic and social advancement.

Soviet Good Will Toward Iran

LD231730 Moscow TASS in English 1717 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 23, TASS--TASS political commentator Konstantin Ivanov writes: Despite the crushing blow dealt by the Iranian people at the positions of imperialism and reaction by throwing off the despotic regime of the shah, the enemies of the Iranian revolution are not giving up attempts to reverse the development of events in Iran.

Judging by reports, the former shah Reza Pahlavi still entertains hopes of returning to the country and for this purpose is taking vigorous measures, not without the assistance of the CIA. On his orders large sums of money are smuggled into Iran to finance groups of plotters and to support various separatist movements that have envigorated their struggle against the Iranian Government. Pro-shah elements are trying to fan up and utilize in their own interests the dissatisfaction that has accumulated over the decades of national oppression in Iranian Kordestan and several other provinces of the country. They would like to impart a counter-revolutionary nature to the actions of the Kurds and other national minorities.

As it is usual in such cases, the reaction and imperialist special services are covering up their subversive activities with concoctions about interference into Iranian affairs by others. They ascribe to the Soviet Union an interest in seeing Iran "dismembered", circulate various provocative rumours, aimed at causing wariness, mistrust and complicating relations between our neighbour countries.

It is even contended that the Soviet Union "benefited" from the existence of the shah regime and that not only deals with imperialist monopolies but also contacts with the USSR were economically disadvantageous for Iran. It is thus that a pretext is being generated for demands whose fulfillment would result in an undermining of trade and economic ties between Iran and the USSR, would consolidate and even worsen the orientation of the Iranian economy mostly at Western markets. The purpose of this is quite obvious: If it is not possible to achieve the maximum--to bring back the shah and restore American military positions in the area, then it would be good to retain "at least" the economic levers of influence and perhaps even to strengthen them.

The Soviet Union's position in respect of revolutionary Iran is well known. It was the Soviet Union, that firmly warned about the impermissibility of any whatsoever foreign interference in the affairs of the Iranian people, that frustrated the imperialist plot that threatened that country. The Soviet people wishes the friendly Iranian people a successful attainment of the tasks of the anti-shah, anti-imperialist revolution, the speediest solution of the complex political, social, economic and other problems that were inherited from the shah regime. The Soviet Union welcomed the Iranian revolution and its victory also because it is interested in the existence of a peace-loving, rallied and independent Iran that pursues a national policy and does not serve imperialist foreign interests. The revolution opened up new possibilities and prospects for the development of friendly relations between the USSR and Iran on the basis of principles of goodneighbourhood and mutual advantage, relations free of short-term fluctuations, relations embued with mutual respect that would firmly protect them from vilification and intrigues by enemies.

Denial of Soviet Interference

LD252005 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1100 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[Text] PRAVDA has written that goodneighborliness, mutual respect and mutually beneficial cooperation are the policies consistently pursued by our government in its relationship with Iran. The Soviet Union is sincerely interested in seeing its neighbor Iran as a powerful, free and independent country that can look to its future with confidence.

PRAVDA writes that reactionary and imperialist agents are trying by every possible means to create differences between Iran and its neighbors, including the Soviet Union. To this end they are spreading false and provocative rumors about imaginary Soviet interference in the affairs of Iran, the involvement of Russian agents and the Soviet Union's desire for the disintegration of Iran. Apparently the same sources are also fabricating illusory concepts such as the fundamental animosity of the Soviet Union toward all Islamic countries.

However these people's efforts are useless and futile. They will not be able to sow the seeds of discord between Iran and the Soviet Union or to alienate the peoples of the two neighborly countries from one another.

The Soviet Union has most emphatically supported the Iranian revolution and has tried with all its might to prevent foreign interference in the affairs of Iran, from whatever source it might come, so that the plans for military interference from abroad against the Iranian revolution would fail. Today, the Soviet Union hopes that the Iranian people will as soon as possible solve their economic, political and national problems and achieve full success. For the solution of these problems it is necessary that no one should interfere in the internal affairs of Iran and no foreign pressure should be exerted upon this country.

Fighting in Sanandaj, Taleqani's Mission

LD232249 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1100 GMT 22 Mar 79 LD

[Text] According to reports by news agencies yesterday in the province of Iranian Kordestan, although an agreement was reached on a cease-fire, intense fighting between the local population and government forces has been resumed. In the city of Sanandaj, the center of the province, heavy artillery fire was being directed at the positions of the insurgents. The inhabitants of the city were forced to take refuge in their homes. According to UPI, in 3 days of fighting at least 500 people have died. The Iranian Government has dispatched reinforcements to Kordestan. Helicopters are ferrying military supplies to the Sanandaj barracks.

Earlier it was reported that the insurgents had occupied the Sanandaj radio station and had invited the local population to struggle for self-rule and respect for the national customs and traditions of the Kurds, and also to make the central government more attentive to Kurdish social and economic needs.

Yesterday Ayatollah Taleqani, one of the leaders of the Iranian Shi'ites, flew to Kordestan to become acquainted with the situation.

Mr Bani Sadr, one of the close associates of Ayatollah Khomeyni, accompanied Ayatollah Taleqani.

Cease-Fire in Kordestan

LD232110 Moscow TASS in English 2004 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

[Text] London, March 23, TASS--According to the reports of news services from Iran, a ceasefire agreement has been reached at Sanandaj, the main city of the Iranian province of Kordestan, between the government troops and the local Kurd population. It is relatively calm in the city. Food stores were opened for the first time there this week. There are lines of local residents at their doors.

The Provisional Revolutionary Council of Sanandaj has agreed to a ceasefire after the government's mediation mission that arrived in the city had promised to release about 150 Kurd hostages, captured by the garrison of the government troops stationed in the suburbs.

Addressing 20,000 Kurds, Ayatollah Taleqani, who is now in Sanandaj, urged them to "remain calm" and give the government time to consider and satisfy the demands of the local population. The Kurds, as earlier reported, demand autonomy for Iranian Kordestan.

Seyyed-Javadi, minister of internal affairs of Iran, as reported by the REUTER's news service, has assured the Kurds that Kurdish language would be taught soon in local schools. So far tuition there was done only in Farsi.

The Kurds have relaxed, but not lifted the seige of the government garrison. They are still in control of the main institutions, radio and television stations.

Moscow Persian on Kordestan

LD251732 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1100 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The cease-fire agreement which was signed in Iranian Kordestan was fully observed yesterday. His eminence Taleqani and Haj Seyyed Javidi, the minister of the interior, continued their discussion with the Kurdish leaders about the normalization of the situation in this area. According to REUTER, Haj Seyyed Javadi has promised the Kurds limited autonomy. In an interview with the REUTER agency the leaders of the insurgents stated that the Kurds are not seeking separation from Iran and are not opposing the revolution of the Iranian people. They seek autonomy within the framework of the democratic Iranian nation.

Government Mission, Sanandaj Council Agreement

LD251732 Moscow TASS in English 1537 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Tehran, March 25, TASS--An agreement on setting up a local government body, a city council, was reached during talks between the government mediation mission and the Provisional Revolutionary Council of Sanandaj, the chief city of Iranian Kordestan. The city council will, in particular, also deal with matters of maintenance of order in the city. The council is to be set up through free elections. This was reported by Ayatollah Taleqani, one of Iranian religious leaders, in a speech at a meeting in Sanandaj.

Having pointed out that there is unrest in some Kurdish areas, Taleqani called on the Kurds to solve through talks the problems agitating them.

According to Seyyed Javadi, Iranian minister of the interior, who is also in Sanandaj now, the main demands of the Iranian Kurds are to be soon considered by the government.

According to a Tehran radio report, I. Yunesi, a Kurd by nationality, who is known for his action against the shah's regime, was appointed the new governor of the Iranian province of Kordestan.

Normalization of Situation

LD252102 Moscow TASS in English 2010 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD

[Excerpt] Tehran, March 25, TASS--Talks between the delegation headed by Ayatollah Taleqani, who have been sent there by Khomeyni, and representatives of the Kurdish population ended in Sanandaj, the chief city of the Iranian province of Kordestan.

The communique adopted at the close of the talks says that the recent sanguinary events in the city were the consequences of the instigatory activity of the supporters of the shah's regime who provoked armed clashes with the troops of the local garrison.

Population's insufficient knowledge of the Provisional Government's programs which envisage the granting of equal rights and democratic freedoms to all nationalities inhabiting Iran was also one of the causes of the unrest.

The communique emphasizes, in particular, the right of the Kurds to participate in the drafting and adopting of a new constitution of Iran, and the right to elect local government bodies. The communique says further that the Iranian revolution guarantees the Kurds' right to use the economic resources of the area for the raising of the wellbeing of population, and for the development of national culture.

Tudeh Party Statement

LD232348 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1630 GMT 22 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The Iranian Tudeh Party has declared through its organ the "NAVID" newspaper, that it supports the constructive actions of the Provisional Government and is ready to join in the activities of the high commission on the organization of revolutionary planning, and to sincerely cooperate with the government of Mehdi Bazargan.

Moscow Persian on Afghan-Iranian Relations

LD231932 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1630 GMT 19 Mar 79 LD

[Igor Shevtunov commentary]

[Excerpt] Imperialism, which is the main enemy of the Iranian people, is treacherous and cunning. The attempt by imperialism to take advantage of every means to aggravate relations between Iran and Afghanistan is evidence of this fact. As you know the people's revolutions, which at first were victorious in Afghanistan and then in Iran, were against imperialist tyranny and oppression. The universal struggle to achieve common goals links the people of Iran and Afghanistan. This is what especially alarms the imperialists and their allies and internal reaction.

Unfortunately, the actions of certain Iranians like Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari aids these imperialist conspiracies. This person is spreading certain rumors to destabilize the conference of the people toward the revolution of the Afghan masses.

Imperialism, while endeavoring to damage good-neighbourly relations between Iran and Afghanistan, has lately increased its aid to counterrevolutionary elements who have fled from Afghanistan, and it is attempting to interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan from certain neighboring countries, including Iran.

BRIEFS

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA--Damascus, March 23, TASS--The construction of a powerful pumping station on the Euphrates, near Maskana was completed, with the technical and economic assistance of the Soviet [word indistinct]. The project is the biggest of its kind in the Middle East. After the construction of the irrigation system, the station will bring water to 21 thousand hectares of arid lands. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 1830 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD]

VISIT OF U.S., UK ENVOYS TO RHODESIA NOTED

LD242208 Moscow in Ndebele to Rhodesia 1530 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[Vladimir Petrov commentary: "On the Anglo-American Envoys in Salisbury"]

[Text] The British and U.S. envoys have arrived in Salisbury for talks with Ian Smith's regime. One of them is Stephen Low, U.S. ambassador to Zambia, and the other one is Robin Renwick, an official of the British Foreign Office in charge of the Rhodesian Department. Here is a commentary on this by our news reporter Vladimir Petrov: [read by announcer]

We should ask ourselves the question: Why have Washington and London decided to reactivate their talks with the Rhodesian Boers? It is obvious that America is worried about the escalating war. The African press views it as the Western aim to recognize Rhodesia in the near future, and to lift sanctions in spite of UN directives. The U.S. administration is also sending observers to the Rhodesian elections, and they are expected to report back favorably. This will enable Washington to recognize the Rhodesian regime.

But informed observers say that this is no solution to the problem. Instead, America and Britain will only antagonize the whole of Africa. The British and U.S. actions cannot stop the Patriotic Front from prosecuting the war in Zimbabwe. If these plans of the Boers are encouraged, the armed forces of the Patriotic Front will further intensify the armed struggle which, in fact, is escalating and intensifying daily. These Anglo-American plans will give greater determination to the people to fight on, not only in Zimbabwe, but in the rest of southern Africa. Britain and America, by sending these to Rhodesia, are trying to stop the people of Zimbabwe from liberating themselves. Yes, the Western powers are desperately trying to divide the liberation alliance and to sow divisions within the neighboring states, thus destroying African unity. America has several times supported the rebels. These envoys want to set up talks in which the West will act as arbitrator. These Anglo-American envoys will not succeed in their attempts to prop up the Smith regime. They will come back emptyhanded. These talks are only delaying tactics calculated at bailing out Ian Smith.

ZAPU LEADER NKOMO INTERVIEWED IN PRAVDA

LD231101 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Mar 79 p 5 LD

[PRAVDA and TASS correspondents V. Volkov, V. Novikov report: "The Racists' Latest Trick"]

[Text] Lusaka, 16 March--The so-called elections planned by the Smith regime for April of this year are the racists' latest trick aimed at distracting the world public's attention from the terror and repression to which the indigenous population of Zimbabwe is subjected. PRAVDA and TASS correspondents were told this by J. Nkomo, one of the Patriotic Front leaders and president of the Zimbabwe African People's Union [ZAPU].

However, the election farce started by Smith and his puppets will mislead nobody, Nkomo remarked. What sort of elections are we talking about if martial law has been declared over nearly all Rhodesia's territory and arbitrary rule prevails in the country with respect to the Africans who make up the vast majority of the population.

Nkomo said that this swindle is being perpetrated by the racists with the tacit consent of Western countries, which are doing everything possible to maintain their domination in this part of Africa. In Rhodesia, as in Namibia, the imperialists hope to preserve the right to dispose of the rich natural resources and to use neocolonial regimes as policemen in the struggle against the continent's national liberation movement.

The Patriotic Front's struggle, Nkomo stated, is not aimed against Smith and the white population, as some people try to present it in the West. We are fighting against racism and its misanthropic policy. Recently, Nkomo said, the world has witnessed an escalation of Rhodesian and South African punitive raids against independent states in southern Africa which give the patriots of Zimbabwe and Namibia assistance and support. These piratical raids by the racists, Nkomo stated, are an integral part of the Western countries' plan aimed at intimidating the frontline states. By organizing these provocative sorties the racists and their patrons are trying to cause clashes and disagreements among the freedom fighters and the independent countries of Africa and to sow distrust of the patriots.

However, those who are bombing peaceful settlements and killing children, women and old men and those who supply aircraft and bombs, missiles and napalm for these barbaric operations, Nkomo said, had better know that their plans will not be realized. In response to the genocide declared by the racists, the patriots are rallying their ranks still more closely and inflicting increasingly substantial blows on the rotten regime's vitally important centers.

The liberation struggle, which has now embraced the entire territory of Zimbabwe, the ZAPU president states, would be impossible without the assistance and support being given to the patriots by the Soviet Union, other socialist community countries and all progressive people in the world. This solidarity is selfless. Our friends do not seek any privileges or advantages for themselves in this region of Africa. In helping us they are guided above all by humane aims since our struggle is aimed against racial oppression and exploitation and for the restoration of millions of Africans' human dignity.

WEST'S HUMAN RIGHTS POSITION ON AFRICA ASSAILED

LD250652 Moscow in English to Africa 2000 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Lately, the Western news media have increasingly been taking up the so-called human rights issue concerning African countries, with the emphasis being put on assertions that those rights are allegedly violated in the countries taking the road of socialist orientation. Our observer comments:

Imperialist propaganda is trying to pose as a champion for human rights, but it is mostly levelling its attacks against Guinea, Ethiopia, the Congo and Benin, that is, the countries where imperialist interests in Africa were dealt the most telling blows. We are told, said President Ahmed Sekoum Toure of Guinea, that the basic freedoms are violated in Guinea, but we know what so-called freedoms the defenders of imperialism are regretting about. In our country, President Sekou Toure pointed out, there really cannot be any freedom for imperialist oppression, for neocolonial plunder, for capitalist profit and the exploitation of man by man. The people of Guinea paid a dear price to rid themselves of such so-called freedoms and will not allow them to be practised again on Guinean soil.

The self-styled human rights champions in the West are trying to present themselves as objective and unbiased, as persons who allegedly take no interest in the political orientation of an African state. The main thing, say those gentlemen, is to respect the basic human rights, regardless of the society the person lives in. But the facts which the Western ideologists are trying so hard to evade indicate that there are no [words indistinct] and no [word indistinct] persons outside society. A close examination will reveal that the rights those Western champions of democracy are urging actually signify private enterprise, exploitation, political instability for the newly emerging states.

Imperialism, President Mathieu Kerekou of Benin has pointed out, has developed a new strategy of destabilizing the progressive regimes in Africa fighting for liberation from colonial and neocolonial rule and to build a new society without the exploitation of man by man. Many African leaders have noted that the imperialists are using human rights rhetoric in an attempt to reduce the vigilance of the African peoples, undermine their belief in the revolutionary changes on the continent. While alleging human rights violations in the countries of socialist orientation, the Western propaganda men are at the same time shamefacedly closing their eyes on the vicious trampling of human rights and freedoms involving peoples in South Africa, Rhodesia, Namibia, where the black population is frequently even denied the right to be regarded as people.

A short while ago, for instance, the United Nations Human Rights Commission decided to ask the General Assembly to examine the legality of the South African regime in connection with its policy of apartheid. The United States, the Federal Republic of Germany and France voted against the decision. Yet in other instances one can frequently hear calls made in those countries to observe human rights but such calls are levelled against progressive African states. It's hardly by chance that many African leaders question the right of Western moralists to dictate to others their understanding of human rights.

According to the magazine AFRIQUE-ASIE, President Didier Ratsiraka of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar has, for instance, asked how governments responsible for using the atom bombs against innocent civilians and who are ignoring the Palestinian people's right to existence can now urge the inclusion of human rights concepts in international conventions. The road to implementing the genuine rights of the African peoples lies through achieving economic independence for the African states; through eliminating the shameful system of racism and apartheid in the continent's south, through progressive social and economic changes in the interests of the broad popular masses. What does the freedom of ideas and statements mean, asked President Eyadema of Togo, if it coexists with the so-called right to die of hunger and disease and if people continue to live in dire poverty? The point of asking the question is self-apparent.

CPSU GREETS CONGOLESE LABOR PARTY CONGRESS

LD252148 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee has sent a greetings message to the delegates of the congress of the Congolese Labor Party. The message states that the aspirations of the Congolese Labor Party to strengthen friendly relations of cooperation with the Soviet Union, with other countries of the socialist community, and with all freedom-loving and peaceful forces are highly appraised and shared in the Soviet Union. Our parties, the message stresses; share common interests in the defense of international security, in the struggle against imperialism, neocolonialism, racism and Chinese hegemonism; in support of disarmament; against the aggressive encroachments upon the sovereignty of countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America; and in support of the national and social liberation of peoples.

VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE ARRIVES IN VENEZUELA

LD232146 Moscow TASS in English 0019 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Caracas, March 23, TASS--United States Vice-President Walter Mondale arrived in Venezuela for a one-day visit. He intends to discuss with the new Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins matters pertaining to bilateral relations which, in the opinion of observers, are increasingly characterized by friction and differences. Attention is expected to be concentrated on problems of oil and oil prices.

Correspondent's View on Trip

LD240032 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2103 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Caracas, 23 March, TASS--Correspondent Mikhail Artyushenkov reports:

U.S. Vice President W. Mondale has arrived here from Brazil on a short visit. He will have talks with Luis Herrera, Venezuelan head of state, with Congress leaders and other officials. Observers believe that the main theme of the talks will be oil and its cost, bilateral ties and the relations between the United States and the countries of the continent.

The high-ranking U.S. representative's visit to two Latin American countries, which play an important role in that region, is no coincidence. Washington is looking for ways to improve relations with Latin America--relations which have become aggravated by its own fault.

The policy of diktat pursued by the United States over many decades has been meeting lately with growing opposition. Venezuela and Brazil, as well as Mexico and a number of other countries, have been expressing their dissatisfaction with this policy with increasing forcefulness. They are taking steps toward the consolidation of their independence and protecting their natural riches.

Venezuela, which nationalized its iron ore and oil industries which were in the hands of the American monopolies, is not yielding to the pressure applied by Washington, which is trying to secure a reduction in the price of oil by the oil-exporting countries.

Business and public circles in Venezuela, have a guarded approach to the American vice president's visit, which is timed to coincide with the coming to power of a new administration. They believe that W. Mondale has arrived only to defend the interests of the United States and the American monopolies, and not to hold talks on an equal level to discuss changes in U.S. policy. In this connection, the deputy chairman of the Congress Chamber of Deputies, Eloy Torres, has stated that Venezuela should not concede its sovereignty.

The president of the Pro-Venezuelan Association of Industrialists, R. Cervini, spoke in favor of relations with the United States on a mutually beneficial basis without diktat and interference.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

REPORTS THAT USSR HIT FUEL PRODUCTION CEILING GROUNDLESS

LD231326 Moscow World Service in English 0900 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

[Text] A prominent Soviet scientist believes that, in the foreseeable future, this country does not have to fear a shortage of mineral fuel. In an interview for the NOVOSTI news agency in Moscow, Academician Mikhayl Styrikovich described as absolutely groundless Western press reports alleging that the Soviet Union has reached the ceiling in oil and coal production. This country has now become the world's leader in oil production. Oil extraction continues to increase.

FINAL STAGE IN RAISING NONPRODUCTION WORKERS WAGES ENDING

LD180705 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1130 GMT 17 Mar 79 LD

[Excerpt] Let us discuss the report published today which says that in the Soviet Union the final stage in raising workers' earnings in the nonproduction sphere is coming to an end. In the near future new rates of pay are to be established for workers in education, health care, social security, culture, trade and many branches of the economy in Moscow, Leningrad and other major industrial centers.

Such increases were previously received by the middle-payment categories of workers in this sphere in northern areas, the Far East, Siberia, the Urals, Kazakhstan, Central Asia and other parts of the country.

The growth in earnings is very appreciable, averaging 18 percent. State spending on this amounts to over R7 billion per year. Over the entire 10th 5-Year Plan this important social measure will substantially improve the material living standards of 31 million people. Nevertheless, despite the scale of the earnings increases being implemented for workers in the nonproduction sphere, this is far from the only measure being effected under the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress. Over the 10th 5-Year Plan as a whole, earnings have been increased for over 50 million manual and white collar workers in our country. The pay of kolkhoz workers has gone up by 26 percent. Over the years since the previous elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet, almost R340 billion more than in the preceding 5 years have been allocated for current consumption and building of housing, schools and hospitals. To make this amount more meaningful, it can be said that this is approximately 150 percent of the Soviet state's budget for the present year.

The social program for the 10th 5-Year Plan will be further implemented this year. Real income per capita will increase by a further 3.5 percent, and payments of allowances out of social services funds will reach R110 billion. These facts irrefutably prove that the line laid down by the Communist Party for ever fuller satisfaction of the material and spiritual needs of the Soviet people is being successfully put into practice.

BRIEFS

KAZAKH OIL PIPELINE--A new oil pipeline is being laid near the eastern shore of the Caspian Sea. Intended to convey oil from Buzachi Peninsula, the pipeline will stretch across the arid desert for nearly 200 kilometers. The pipeline builders are being supplied with drinking water by the country's largest desalinization plant operating on energy from the Shevhcenko AES. [Alma-Ata Domestic Service in Russian 1510 GMT 20 Mar 79 AU]

AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

RADIO REPORTS AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS FOR 22-23 MARCH

LD240700 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0100 GMT on 22 March reports that new land is being made available on the Mukrynskiy massif in eastern Turkmenistan. The (?Akun-Ulan) Canal has brought water to the area to irrigate about 3,000 hectares of virgin land, on which cotton and other crops will be sown this spring. By the end of the 10th 5-Year Plan, more than 30,000 hectares of plowed land will be brought into agricultural use here on the right bank of the Amu-Darya. The radio adds that the sowing of fine-fibre cotton has started on the virgin land sovkhoz Tashkent in Uzbekistan, and that spring fieldwork has begun in Akbulaksiy Rayon, the southernmost in Orenburgskaya Oblast. Snow retention is also in progress.

At 1100 GMT the radio reports that corn sowing is progressing well in Uzbekistan thanks to favorable weather conditions. Sowing is drawing to a close in Surkhandarinskaya Oblast. In Kurskaya Oblast preparations for sugar beet sowing are drawing to a close. Teams to be responsible for the beets from spring fieldwork to the harvest have been set up. The irrigation season has started in the Ukraine. Dnepr water at a rate of 25 cubic meters per second has started flowing down the Severokrymskiy Canal from the Kakhovka Reservoir today. The radio adds in conclusion that the biggest grain cleansing complex in Smolenskaya Oblast has been handed over for use at the Nasha Rodina Kolkhoz. There are already nine major grain cleansing complexes in the oblast, with 14 more to be commissioned before the end of the 5-Year Plan.

At 1750 GMT the radio announces that mass cotton sowing has started in southern Uzbekistan. This year Uzbekistan's growers have pledged to harvest 5.7 million tons of cotton.

At 1900 GMT the radio states that the North Crimean Canal has started functioning for the 1979 harvest. Dnepr water has been sent down the canal to the arid steppes from the Kakhovskoye Reservoir. This year it will irrigate over 300,000 hectares in Khersonskaya and Krymskaya oblasts.

At 0100 GMT on 23 March the radio reports that the sowing of early spring crops is underway in Central Asia, the Northern Caucasus and the Crimea. Mass cotton sowing began today in southern Uzbekistan, and the north will soon follow. In Kirgiz, sugar beet growers have begun spring fieldwork where harrowing is in progress.

At 1000 GMT the radio announces that mass grain sowing has begun in Alma-Atinskaya Oblast in Kazakhstan. At 1400 GMT it adds that sowing has begun in Donetskaya and Zaporozhskaya oblasts.

At 1600 GMT the radio reports that the top-dressing of winter crops, harrowing and sowing of early spring crops are underway in Moldavia. During the month, the republic's vine nursery workers are expected to carry out 160 million grafts. Many cuttings of new grape varieties have been made ready. Moldavia's vineyards will be expanded by over 10,000 hectares this spring.

MACHINERY REPAIR LAGS DELAY SPRING SOWING

LD231319 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Mar 79 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "Shock Labor for the Spring Fields"]

[Text] The March sun has warmed the southern fields. The ground has begun to breathe. [paragraph continues]

The grain growers' main concern now is to sow the grainfields on schedule and with selected grain. The farmers of the Chkalov Sovkhoz in the Crimea completed sowing early spring crops in 3 days. High marks are also being achieved by the machine operators of many farms in Sakskiy and Krasnogvardeyskiy rayons. Good labor organization, the skillful deployment of equipment, experience and skill have become their reliable assistants.

The sowing front is expanding with each passing day. Sowing is already taking place in the Central Asian and Transcaucasian republics, and on the steppes of the North Caucasus and Tavriya. This spring the volume of fieldwork is increasing considerably: Part of the winter crops must be resown and tens of millions of hectares must be sown to spring crops. Under these conditions it is particularly important to utilize equipment more efficiently and to make fuller use of reserves in order to carry out the sowing in exemplary fashion.

It is the grain growers' patriotic desire to successfully implement the plans outlined by the 25th party congress and by the CPSU Central Committee July (1978) Plenum, and to insure that the country is reliably supplied with foodstuffs and raw materials. The kolkhozes and sovkhozes have good opportunities to fulfill the increased volume of work to an excellent standard. The machinery pool has been appreciably reinforced, new machine operator cadres have been trained and the cities are giving the countryside great assistance. The farm leaders and specialists and the rural party organizations are required to mobilize all the workers for shock labor and to create conditions for this in each link, detachment and team.

In their resolution "On Additional Measures for Preparing for and Carrying Out the Spring Fieldwork in 1979" the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers drew particular attention to providing the kolkhozes and sovkhozes with high-quality seed. An adequate quantity of high-quality seed had been laid in on most farms. Good-quality sowing material has been prepared in Stavropolskiy Kray, and Voronezhskaya, Saratovskaya, Kuybyshevskaya and Denepropetrovskaya oblasts. But in Permskaya and Kirovskaya oblasts and in the Udmurtskaya ASSR much seed has still not been brought into suitable condition. There is not a single day to be lost. The agricultural and procurement organs are required to secure the efficient operation of all seed-cleaning equipment, and to complete as quickly as possible the interfarm exchange and checking of grain for sowing.

Socialist competition has now been mounted on a large scale in the countryside, aimed at increasing yields and the gross harvests of grain and other crops. The Ukraine's grain growers have planned to obtain 49-50 million tons of grain, Kazakhstan--at least 27-28 million tons, the Kuban--9 million, and the Don--8 million tons. The party organizations are heading the struggle to introduce progressive labor methods, scientific achievements and advanced practice. For example, 80,000 sowing complexes this year will be going out onto the fields set up in accordance with the example set by the Ipatovo farmers. It is now important to supply them with all the required equipment and to take pains over the rational organization of this and the correct deployment of cadres.

Advanced collectives are reliably insuring that the sowing is carried out to a high standard and at a rapid tempo, which will ultimately serve to increase yields. However, blunders are also occurring on the fields.

Thus, on the Komsomol Kolkhoz, Kurgantepinskiy Rayon, Andizhanskaya Oblast, mineral fertilizers were not applied to the underwinter fallow, and dozens of tons of mineral fertilizers were left out in the open, uncovered. Such omissions have occurred in other places too. It is incumbent upon the party and soviet organs to call the bad workers strictly to account and to increase the responsibility of the farm leaders and specialists for the quality of work.

Powerful modern equipment makes it possible to reduce the time taken for sowing, provided that machine stoppages are not allowed to occur. Last year, these stoppages amounted to more than 5 million tractor-days in the Ukraine merely because of technical faults, in Belorussia the figure was 1.6 million tractor-days, and in Latvia--373,000. Equipment also stood idle for long periods on other republics too. Meanwhile, there is good experience almost everywhere which merits support. Thus, the specialists of the Kumsangirskiy Rayon association of the Tadzhik SSR's Goskomselkhoztekhnika created an exchange center, introduced a comprehensive system of technical servicing and established rapid centralized delivery of spare parts. Organizing the efficient work of all workshops and providing guaranteed repair work for machines is one of the top-priority tasks for the leaders of the specialized enterprises.

Sowing times depend primarily on the standard or the preparation of the tractors, seed drills and cultivators, and on skillful labor organization. However, PRAVDA is receiving alarm signals about difficulties with the repair of equipment. "For a long time we have been unable to repair six D-54 engines," writes V. Romanov, workshop chief at the Itkulskiy Sovkhoz, Novosibirskaya Oblast. "We do not have pistons or cylinder liners for them. The situation is the same on the neighboring Suminskiy and Kirovskiy Sovkhozes. We have scoured the entire oblast but have been unable to buy spare parts. But it will soon be time to go out onto the fields." The blame for the situation that has developed rests with the plant collectives which have failed to cope with the plan for the supply of parts to the countryside. It is the duty of the leaders of ministries and departments and of the enterprises' party committees to take special control of the fulfillment of these orders.

The sowing work always serves as a stern test for the farmers. Success is achieved by those collectives where competition in sowing is managed efficiently and on a flexible current basis. The party organizations are required to organize this matter so that each machine operator learns the results of his labor every day and compares them with his comrades' achievements to adopt as quickly as possible everything new that his neighbors have come up with. The various forms of mass political work must be subordinated to this. In spring the field camp becomes a second home for those participating in the sowing. The kolkhoz and sovkhoz leaders should take pains to see that after their strenuous labor the people can have a good rest in the field camp, obtain hot food, read the latest newspapers, listen to the radio or watch television.

"Shock labor for the spring fields!" That is the motto of the competition stalwarts. May it become the battle slogan of all the grain growers. Shock labor during the sowing and the high standard of work will make it possible to mark in fitting fashion the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the First 5-Year Plan, to grow a good harvest this year, and to give the country more grain and other produce.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON ACTIVITIES OF SALYUT CREW

First Kristall Experiment

LD231640 Moscow TASS in English 1542 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

["Successful Work of the Crew"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 23, TASS--A TASS special correspondent reports from Mission Control Centre: Continuing is the orbital flight of Cosmonauts Vladimir Yakhov and Valeriy Ryumin.

Yesterday the crew of the research complex Salyut-6 Soyuz-32 Progress-5 carried out the first technological experiment using the new Kristall electric heating installation that was brought to the station by the Progress-5 cargo ship. The programme of space material studies provides for continued testing of methods of technological studies in conditions of weightlessness.

Technical experiments were carried out with the aim of further trying out sensors for promising systems of space navigation. A regular stage of repair and maintenance operations with the station's combined propulsion plant was carried out today.

After a week of vacuuming the fuel mains and fuel tank were blasted with compressed nitrogen to remove possible fuel residue. The operations were carried out on command from earth while the cosmonauts controlled the pressurisation of the mains and their subsequent vacuuming. Being continued are biological experiments with higher and lower plants and with a tissue culture. The crew planted seeds of arabidopsis brought by the cargo ship in the instrument Fiton and placed it near a light source. The cosmonauts eat a part of the plants that they grow on board the station, for example, dill, parsley and onions.

In the afternoon Vladimir Lyakhov and Valeriy Ryumin took a shower. The crew feels well.

First TV Transmission

LD241403 Moscow TASS in English 1311 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Flight Control Centre, March 24, TASS--A space communication system ensuring the telecasting of images from earth to the orbital station was tested today in keeping with the flight program of the Salyut-6-Soyuz-32-Progress-5 research complex. Such an experiment was accomplished for the first time in the history of cosmonautics.

Standard and newly-created radio technical means of the earth-based command-and-instrumentation complex were used to transmit television data along the "earth-orbit" line. The reception of television image on board the Salyut-6 station was carried out by means of a television receiver brought into the orbit by the Progress-5 ferry craft. The cosmonauts Vladimir Lyakhov and Valeriy Ryumin assembled the receiver on board the station and checked its serviceability.

Telecasting from the control centre was done simultaneously with radio contacts during two communication sessions.

The images of the text of today's PRAVDA, drawings from the onboard manual were transmitted to the station. During the radio contact with the flight director Aleksey Yeliseyev, Pilot-Cosmonaut of the USSR Valeriy Kubasov and communications operator, the cosmonauts saw them on the screen of their receiver. Valdimir Lyakhov and Valeriy Ryumin noted a good quality of the received image.

With the bringing into operation of the communications system ensuring the reception of television images on board the orbital complex, possibilities for the transmission of various information in the form of texts, tables, drawings, photographs as well as television topics from the control centre and other organizations to the crew expand considerably.

The practice of long manned flights showed the advisability of the transmission of television information to the orbital complex. The first experimental telecasting from the Flight Control Centre to the Salyut-6 was carried out successfully.

Great Significance of Transmission

LD241732 Moscow TASS in English 1654 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 24, TASS--TASS commentator Valeriy Mazaletskiy writes: Television transmissions in the orbit were carried out in the USSR for the first time in space flight practice today. This sophisticated engineering objective was resolved already in the course of the Salyut-6 station flight. A compact television receiver was taken aboard by the freight Progress-5 spaceship. The crew erected it, had it connected to the radio system aboard th ship, and made tests.

The place of the communication operator was rearranged at the control centre. One television camera now looks at the operator and another is directed to his working desk. Newspaper pages, technical documents, drawings, sketches, photographs can be put in the field of view of that camera.

The first television images, received at the station, have given rise to agitation of the crew members. On the blue screen Vladimir Lyakhov and Valeriy Ryumin read information on their flight from the page of today's issue of the newspaper PRAVDA, familiarized themselves with one of the sheets of spaceship instructions. The cosmonauts received with joyful exclamations the image of Cheburashka, a popular hero of animated cartoons for children, which came into the cosmonauts fields of view.

In one of the rooms of the Flight Control Centre there is also a television camera for negotiations between specialists. The first conversation from that room was held with the crew by Director of the Flight Aleksiy Yeliseyev and Pilot Cosmonaut of the USSR Valeriy Kubasov.

Thus, a space television link is now open for a regular use. Valdimir Lyakhov and Valeriy Ryumin have noted a high-quality of the image, transmitted from the earth. It is difficult to overestimate the significance of this experiment for the development of piloted flights.

The crew can now obtain information they need in the form of tables or charts, look at photographs made during the flight, to see drawings. In implementing complicated work the crew can be shown cosmonauts' actions on ground training apparatuses.

One should not forget the tremendous psychological support the cosmonauts will receive from meetings during television sessions with their relatives and friends. All this will give the crew of the orbital station the feeling of a close link with earth, will help them fulfil the program more successfully.

All Crew's Work Successful

LD241728 Moscow TASS in English 1700 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 24, TASS--TASS correspondent Nikolay Zhelezhov reports from the Flight Control Centre: In the fourth weeks spent by Vladimir Lyakhov and Valeriy Ryumin in the near-earth orbit, we never felt tiredness in their voices in communication sessions. Despite the strenuous program of work in outer space in this spring month both demonstrate a high class both in professional activity and in spirits.

The doctor of the crew mentions the excellent training of the crew on earth as mainly attributing to such a labour and emotional upsurge. We prepared the cosmonauts before time for the difficulties of this important stage, he said. The list of prophylactic and repair work, which was carried out by the cosmonauts to increase the "margin of safety" of separate systems and the station as a whole, looks solid indeed. Most of 33 items on the program were fulfilled ahead of schedule. All of them were a success.

One of the last operations, in which cosmonauts appeared as assembly-men and fitters, was the repair of the mobile television camera. The quality of the first transmission after repairs was such as if it was carried out not from outer space, but from Moscow's Central Television studio in Ostankino.

In the past week the crew did work connected with the arrival in the orbit of the freight Progress-5 ship. The cosmonauts transferred the equipment for scientific experiments and are now preparing for pumping fuel from the freight ship to the tanks of the joint power unit of the station.

The crew installed in one of the compartments a small-size gamma-telescope Yelena and had it switched on several times. The cosmonauts checked the new technological furnace Kristall in which the cosmonauts are to hold many experiments important for science and technology.

Television communication in the direction from earth to the spaceship was established today for the first time in the history of space flights. The cosmonauts had communication with the control centre as if by a videotelephone. They saw an operator who spoke with them, had an opportunity to observe the Flight Control Centre.

Our videocommunication with space-crews has now become two-sided, said head of the flight Aleksey Yeliseyev. In the first place, we plan to use this system to transmit to the spaceship working documentation, drawings, schemes, results of the processing of scientific information received from the ship. But in principle, any Central Television transmission can be sent to the spaceship.

The television transmission to outer space was held for a few minutes today. Specialists of ground measurement centres, located on the territory of the USSR and also aboard research ships, which participate in giving services to the flight, are now making their utmost to broaden the possibilities of two-sided videotelephone earth-outer space communication.